SHONENJUMP MANGA

vol. 25

# NISEKOI

## False Love

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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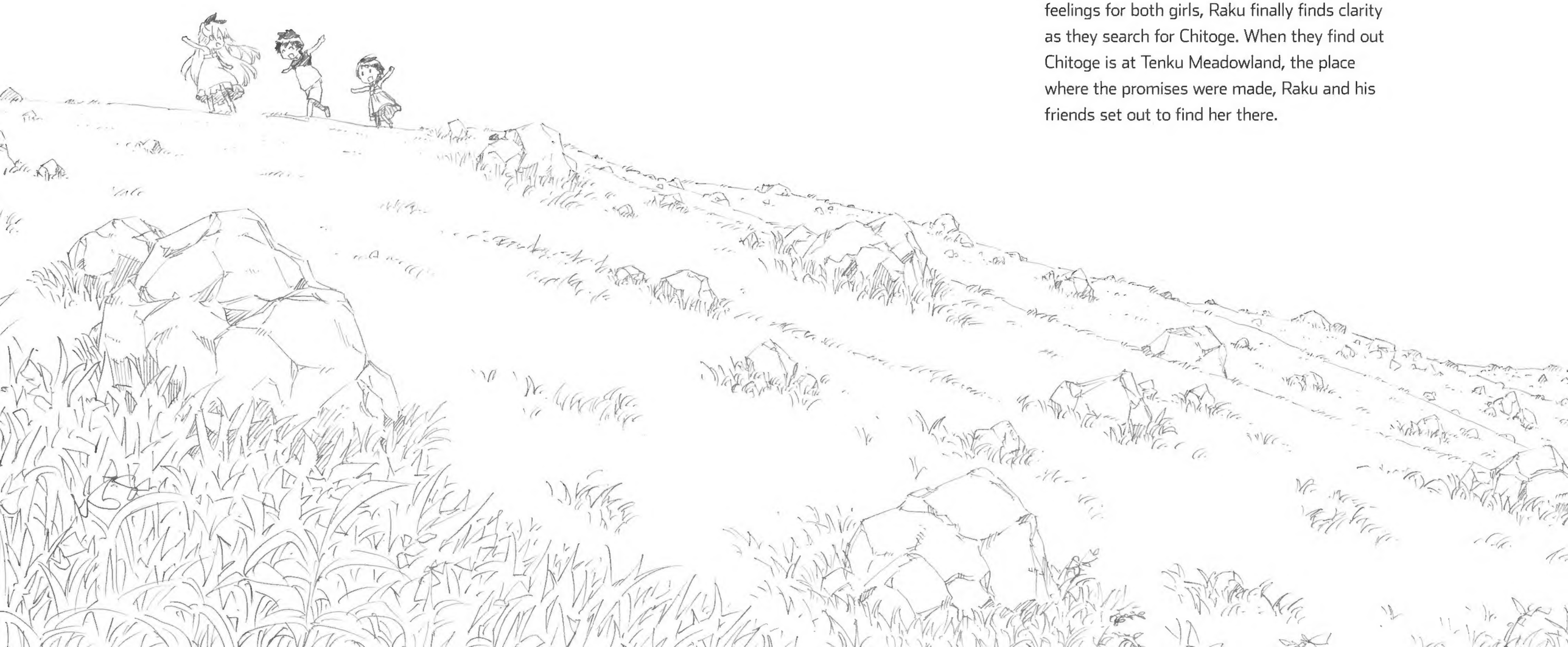
## STORY

Ten years ago, Raku Ichijo made a promise with a girl he loved that they would get married when they met again...and he still treasures the pendant she gave him to seal their pledge. Thanks to his family's circumstances, Raku has to pretend he's dating Chitoge Kirisaki, the daughter of a rival gangster. Both Chitoge and Raku's crush, Kosaki, have keys that symbolize a promise. When Chitoge realizes Raku and Kosaki have feelings for each other, she decides to remove herself from the equation and disappears without warning. Torn between his feelings for both girls, Raku finally finds clarity as they search for Chitoge. When they find out Chitoge is at Tenku Meadowland, the place where the promises were made, Raku and his friends set out to find her there.



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vol. 25: False Love

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# Chapter 218: Somehow

SO THIS IS...

...TENKU HIGHLAND...

STRANGE...

I DON'T REMEMBER THIS AT ALL...

BUT I DO GET A SENSE OF DÉJÀ VU...

THIS IS WHERE WE MET...

ME AND RAKU AND KOSAKI...

AND MARIKA AND YUI...

AND...

IT'S WHERE WE MADE AN IMPORTANT PROMISE...

I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE, SINCE I BARELY REMEMBER IT.

STILL, IT DOESN'T QUITE FEEL REAL.

HOPEFULLY SOMETHING WILL SPARK A MEMORY...

TMP

I DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING WILL COME BACK TO ME...

MAYBE I SHOULD START BY LOOKING AROUND.

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

RAKUUUU!

TUG

THAT SHOULD DO IT.

OKAY...

YUI!

CLATTER

IS IT TRUE!? YOU KNOW WHERE CHITOGE IS?!

IT'S PRETTY FAR, SO I PROBABLY WON'T BE BACK UNTIL TOMORROW.

ANYWAY, I'M HEADED THERE NOW.

RIGHT.

WELL, TRAVEL SAFE.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON IN HER HEAD.

I GUESS SO.

OH! TENKU HIGHLAND!

SO, IT HAS TO DO WITH TEN YEARS AGO...

YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB.

WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Give her my best!

RATS...

IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO TEACH SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D GO WITH YOU...

I'LL LET HER KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED TOO.

DON'T WORRY.

I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

HAVE YOU... MADE UP YOUR MIND?

HEY, RAKKY...

...I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW.

AND WHEN YOU DO...

YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHO'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU, RAKKY...

OH!

...?

AH!

GOOD.

...

I'VE DECID-ED.

YES.

...

...I'LL COME BACK ANOTHER TIME.

IF I DECIDE I WANT TO KNOW...

NO THANKS.

LIKE YOU SAID, WHAT MATTERS IS HOW I FEEL NOW, RIGHT?

I GUESS I'D BETTER KEEP MY PROMISE THEN.

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO?

I SEE...

...

SHO

OP

YES, MA'AM!

NIGHT!

RAKKY ...

GIVE ME YOUR PENDANT FOR A MINUTE.

SHWOO

WOOSH

!!

ING

TINK

...INSIDE.

THIS WAS STUCK...

THERE.

YOU CRIED AND CRIED!

BUT WHEN WE WERE LITTLE, YOUR FRIENDS WERE CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR PENDANT AND THEY TRIED TO OPEN IT.

YOU PROB-ABLY DON'T REMEM-BER...

YOU SEEMED TO HAVE FORGOTTEN, SO I DIDN'T BRING IT UP.

I WANTED YOU TO DECIDE BASED ON HOW YOU FEEL NOW.

I WANTED YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHO MATTERS MOST TO YOU NOW WITHOUT THE PAST'S INFLUENCE.

I THINK MARIKA PROBABLY ...

...FELT THE SAME WAY.

...

MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE I WAS HOPING YOU'D PICK ME.

ACTUALLY, NO.

THE TRUTH IS...

WHAP

HEY, NOW... DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

MY FEELINGS AREN'T YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY, REMEMBER?

NOW YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN THE PENDANT WITH THE RIGHT KEY.

THE REST IS ALL UP TO YOU, RAKKY.

WHAT'S INSIDE AND WHO YOU MADE THE PROMISE WITH...

BY THE WAY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE EITHER.

SEE YOU SOON!

YEAH. THANKS, YUI!

...

...I'LL BE CHEER-ING YOU ON FROM HERE.

AS YOUR ONLY SISTER ...

SAFE TRAVELS, RAKKY.

YOU CAN DO IT!

IT'S FINALLY OVER?

SO, DON YUI...

...

TMP...

I LOVE YOU.

GOOD LUCK, RAKKY.

...REALLY OVER.

IT'S FINAL-LY...

HM...

YES.

BRRMM

PSHHHHHH

RRRRR

VRRMMM

IT'S TOTALLY DARK NOW.

FIRST THE BULLET TRAIN, THEN A LOCAL TRAIN, THEN A BUS...

TMP

TMP

PHEW... WE'RE FINALLY HERE!

SO, THIS IS THE PROMISE LAND?

IT'S TOO DARK. I CAN'T SEE A THING!!

C'MON, SHU. GET SERIOUS.

WE'RE NOT HERE FOR SIGHT-SEEING.

WELL, THE INN CONFIRMED THAT SHE'S HERE.

AND SEVERAL PEOPLE SAID THEY'D SEEN HER.

YEAH. CHITOGE STANDS OUT.

She's beautiful and half-Japanese, with that blond hair and ribbon...

ANYWAY, SHE'S DEFINITELY SOMEWHERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN.

STILL... IT'S A BIG MOUNTAIN.

YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN TRACK HER DOWN?

WE HAVE TO! WE CAME ALL THIS WAY!

LET'S SPLIT UP.

YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME TOO, RIGHT, RURI?

SOUNDS GOOD! I'LL TEAM UP WITH RURI!

SURE. SOUNDS FINE.

WE'LL GO IN PAIRS.

BUT WE SHOULDN'T GO ALONE IN THE DARK.

!

YEAH!

LET'S GO!

I GUESS IT'S YOU AND ME, ONODERA.

I don't know what you're talking about.

Gee... I feel like you've been way friendlier lately.

IF WE DON'T FIND HER, WE'LL RECONNECT WITH SHU AND RURI AND TAKE IT FROM THERE.

THE MAP SHOWS SEVERAL PATHS. LET'S START WITH THOSE.

OKAY.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND HER IN PERSON.

MINE'S OUT OF RANGE.

IT'S NO USE... SHE STILL ISN'T ANSWERING HER PHONE.

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

TAK

HM...

AM I IMAGINING IT?

OR IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT ICHIJO'S EXPRESSION...

HUH?

OH... RIGHT...

AND THIS TIME, SHE'S GOING TO APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING US WORRY!

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL FIND HER FOR SURE.

ARE YOU WORRIED, ONO-DERA?

HUH?

WHAT... YOU SEE HER?!

WAIT, ICHIJO! OVER THERE!

HUH?!

LISTEN ...

UM, ICHIJO?

YUKIO

OOOO

CLAUDE ?!

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE...?

SORRY...

WOULD YOU MIND GOING ON AHEAD?

HUH?!

...

ONO-DERA...

HE'S AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF CHITOGE'S FAMILY'S GANG, RIGHT?

WHY'S HE HERE?

I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU WHEN WE FINISH.

I PROMISE.

I THINK HIS BUSI-NESS IS JUST WITH ME.

DON'T WORRY. I'M JUST GOING TO TALK TO HIM.

A-ARE YOU SURE?!

HE'S SUPER SCARY... WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU...?

I'M SORRY TO LEAVE YOU ON YOUR OWN. BUT I APPRECI-ATE IT.

BESIDES, IF WE STOP LOOKING AND DON'T FIND CHITOGE, WE'LL HAVE COME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR NOTHING, RIGHT?

YOU'RE SURE IT'S SAFE?

YEAH... NO PROB-LEM.

...

YEAH, I'LL BE FINE!

TMP...

YOU DECIDED NOT TO RUN AWAY. HOW HONORABLE.

I'M HERE TO KEEP YOU AWAY FROM THE YOUNG MISTRESS.

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DO YOU THINK I'D TELL YOU?

DO YOU KNOW WHY CHITOGE LEFT?

SHFF

BUT IF YOU LEAVE NOW, I WON'T HURT YOU.

I CAN'T DO THAT.

WILL YOU PLEASE LET ME THROUGH?

SORRY ...

BUT I REALLY NEED TO SEE CHITOGE.

OR AS HER *FAKE* BOYFRIEND?

AS THE MISTRESS'S FRIEND?

WHY ARE YOU HERE, ANYWAY?

YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

SUR-PRISED?

WHAT, YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW?

I KNOW MORE THAN THAT.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TORN BETWEEN THE MISTRESS AND ANOTHER WOMAN...YOU ARROGANT JERK.

How ?!

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT ?!

I ASSIGNED SEISHIRO TO INVESTIGATE YOU, BUT I WASN'T GOING TO RELY JUST ON THAT.

I UNDERTOOK MY OWN INVESTIGATIONS AS WELL.

IN ANY CASE, I'M NOT HERE TO CASTIGATE YOU FOR YOUR FARCE.

THAT'S NO LONGER THE ISSUE.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE CARES FOR YOU... I WON'T HAVE IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU PLANNED TO CHOOSE, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU SEE HER.

BUT IT'S BETTER FOR HER TO JUST LET IT END LIKE THIS.

I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR HER...

AND I KNOW ...

WHY THE MIS-TRESS RAN AWAY FROM YOU...

YOU DON'T DESERVE HER!

KCHAK

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU SEE THE MISTRESS.

GO HOME!

AND DON'T EVER APPROACH HER AGAIN!

I'M NOT GIVING UP UNTIL I TALK WITH CHITOGE!!

YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE UP THAT EASILY?!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MASTER CLAUDE!!

THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...

SQUEEZE

IS THAT SO?

WOO

OSHI

Sure is warm in Japan!
Ahh...

YOU OKAY, RAKU ICHIJO?

SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING.

TSUGUMI...!

# Chapter 219: I Knew It

BUT...

LEAVE THIS TO ME.

YOU GO AFTER THE MISTRESS. GO!

SEISHIRO.

TMP

THANK YOU, TSUGUMI ...!

GOT IT.

GET MOVING ALREADY!

WHEN IT COMES TO THIS STUFF, ALL YOU DO IS GET IN THE WAY.

LOOK, YOU IDIOT. DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN!

OUCH ...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, SEISHIRO?

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

ARE YOU ACTUALLY SIDING WITH THAT INSOLENT PUNK?!

WHAT IS THIS?!

LAST TIME, I FORGAVE YOUR DISOBEDIENCE BECAUSE IT WAS FOR THE MISTRESS'S SAKE.

BUT NOW...

TMP

ALL THE MORE REASON ...!

I BELIEVE HE'S CONNECTED WITH HER DISAPPEARANCE.

THE MISTRESS NEEDS TO SEE RAKU ICHIJO.

YES.

?!

I'LL TELL YOU.

AH, RIGHT.

YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHY THE MISTRESS DISAPPEARED.

TMP

I REALLY HOPE HE'S OKAY...

HAHH

I WONDER HOW ICHIJO IS...

PHEW...

IF WE LET HIM SEE HER, HE'LL ONLY CAUSE HER MORE PAIN!

THAT DIRTY LITTLE WORM IS ATTRACTED TO THE MISTRESS... AND UNDER THE THRALL OF ANOTHER WOMAN!

NOW...DO YOU STILL INSIST THAT HE SHOULD SEE HER?

RIGHT.

...WHY THE MISTRESS DIS-APPEARED?

SO THAT'S ...

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

I SEE.

LET'S GET RID OF THAT LITTLE CRETIN ONCE AND FOR ALL!

SO. NOW THAT YOU KNOW, YOU CAN HELP ME.

...I THINK THE MISTRESS NEEDS TO SEE HIM!

BUT IN THAT CASE...

EXCUSE ME, MASTER CLAUDE...

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE MISTRESS SUFFER?!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!

THAT WON'T BE GOOD FOR HER.

...SHE'LL RUN AWAY WITHOUT EVER FACING WHAT MATTERS MOST TO HER.

IF SHE DOESN'T SEE RAKU ICHIJO NOW...

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'S WORTHY OF HER?!

THAT IMPUDENT, DIS-GUSTING LITTLE MONKEY !!

DEPENDING ON HOW HE PLAYS HIS CARDS, THEY MIGHT END UP TOGETHER!!

IF WE LET HIM GET TO HER...

DON'T YOU GET IT, SEISHIRO ?

I DO.

YES.

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY EVER SINCE WE STARTED SENIOR YEAR...

I'M SURE HE'S VERY TORN.

THE OTHER WOMAN YOU MENTION ...

...MUST BE ONODERA.

HE MAY NOT BE PHYSICALLY STRONG ...

...BUT HE TREATS EVERYONE HE MEETS WITH ABSOLUTE FAIRNESS.

MASTER CLAUDE!

I'VE BEEN KEEPING CLOSE TABS ON RAKU ICHIJO FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS NOW.

AND I CAN TELL YOU...

...THAT HE'S FIT TO STAND BY THE MISRESS'S SIDE.

HE HAS THE CAPACITY TO UPHOLD HIS BELIEFS WITH CONVICTION.

NO MATTER WHOM HE CHOOSES ...

I TRUST THAT HE'LL TREAT THE MISTRESS RIGHT.

PLEASE LET HIM SEE HER!

SEISHIRO ...

SHP

I SEE THAT YOU THINK QUITE HIGHLY OF HIM...

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, DON'T YOU?!

SO THERE IS NO POINT IN FURTHER DISCUS-SION!

KHHRRRRRR

Y-YIKES!! WHAT WAS THAT?! AN EXPLOSION?!

IT CAME FROM BACK WHERE WE...

KHHRR

OOOM!

EEK!!

KHHRRRRR

KHHRR

ICHIJO...?

DON'T TELL ME...

COULD IT BE...

...THEY'RE HERE?

RAKU AND THE OTHERS...

SOME KIND OF BLAZE DOWN AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN ...

WHAT'S THIS?

KHRR

RR

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

NAH, IT CAN'T BE.

THEY'RE NOT HERE.

SO WHY IS MY HEART RACING?

WHUP WHUP

WHUP WHUP

WHUP WHUP

WHUP WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

WHUP

...THAT SOUND?

WHAT'S ...

GAH!

I FEEL BAD ALWAYS LETTING TSUGUMI HANDLE THE ROUGH STUFF.

BUT SHE'S RIGHT... I'D ONLY GET IN HER WAY.

YEESH ...

THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT...

BOOM

KA-WAM

TSUGUMI'S DOING HER PART. I'VE GOT TO DO MINE!

TMP

...I'VE GOT TO FIND CHITOGE!

ALL THE MORE REASON ...

HUH?

WHAT'S THIS...?

I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE CLUES...

I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WOULD LOOK MORE FAMILIAR.

STILL...

I THOUGHT COMING HERE WOULD TRIGGER ALL SORTS OF MEMORIES, BUT I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER A THING.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...

IS THIS WHERE TACHIBANA WAS BEING TREATED WHEN WE WERE LITTLE?

WAIT A MINUTE...

Oh, Raku Deeeearest!

FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT I HEARD A SUPER-FAMILIAR VOICE...

WHAT WAS THAT?

Oh, Raku Deeeearest!

SHOOP!

VWOOOOOSH

RAAAKUUUUU

WHAT ...?

WAIT... IT CAN'T BE...

KA-WHAM!

AIIEEE!!

DEEEEAAREST !!

T-T-TACHIBANA ?!

I CAN'T TAKE IT! ♡

THE SMELL OF YOU... THE FEEL OF YOU... IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

MM...

WHEN I'M FINISHED HERE, I'LL GO STRAIGHT BACK.

I'M SURE YOU HAVE LOTS TO SAY ABOUT THAT, BUT PLEASE DON'T WORRY.

COME NOW, RAKU DEAR-EST!

FIN-ISHED?

...

RATTLE

RATTLE

IN THE HOS-PITAL!!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE STATES?!

W... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

WHAT?!

TEE HEE!!

♡

I SNUCK OUT FOR A LITTLE BREAK!

♡

THIS IS WHERE...

...YOU AND I FIRST MET, RAKU DEAREST!

WOW, THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

I CAN'T BELIEVE...

...WE'RE MEETING HERE AGAIN!

I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED WHO'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU.

BY THE WAY, RAKU DEAREST...

HUH?!

...BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I REALLY WANT TO TELL YOU.

I CAME HERE TODAY...

I'M ROUGHLY AWARE OF THE SITUATION.

WE SHARE INFORMATION.

YUI TOLD ME.

...THAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO.

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING...

ALL OF IT.

CLEAR AS DAY.

I KNEW...

...BUT I PRETENDED NOT TO.

KLINKA

KCHIK

...I WASN'T THE GIRL YOU MADE THE PROMISE WITH.

BECAUSE ...

I WAS AFRAID THAT IF YOU FOUND OUT WHO YOUR REAL PROMISE GIRL WAS...

...YOUR HEART WOULD BE HERS, NO MATTER WHAT.

SO ALL THIS TIME, I PRETENDED NOT TO KNOW.

...

...MUST'VE FELT THE SAME WAY.

I THINK MARIKA...

BECAUSE THIS IS THE END...

SO I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

AFTER YOU TALK WITH KIRISAKI ABOUT WHY SHE RAN AWAY...YOU'RE GOING TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS TO ONE OF THEM, RIGHT?

I CAME HERE TODAY TO COME CLEAN ABOUT THAT.

BUT WHEN THIS THING PLAYS ITSELF OUT AND IS DONE, I'LL POP RIGHT BACK UP!

I'LL BACK OFF FOR NOW.

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! THIS DOESN'T MEAN I'M GIVING UP ON YOU!

WHOA, THERE!

NO!!

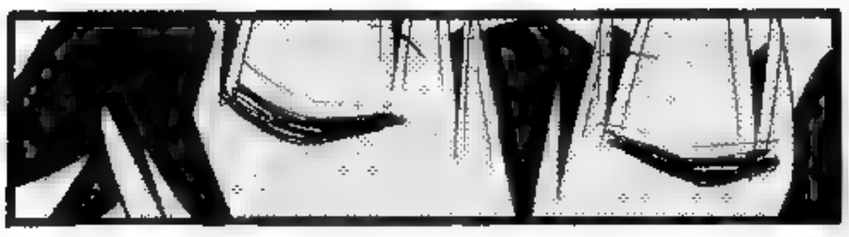
I DON'T GIVE UP EASILY, AS YOU WELL KNOW!

TACHIBANA ...

...

AND ON THAT NOTE...

...



I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.

THANK YOU, TACHIBANA.

I LOVE YOU TREMEN-DOUSLY...

AND I'D BE VERY GOOD TO YOU!

ARE YOU SURE ...

...YOU DON'T WANT TO PICK ME?

BUT, I'M SORRY.

I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.

SORRY.

...

TEE HEE. I KNEW IT.

WHUP WHUP

WHUP

THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE, RAKU DEAREST ...

BY THE WAY, I SPOTTED KIRISAKI FROM UP ABOVE.

WHUP WHUP WHUP

I HAVE TO BE GETTING BACK.

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

WHUP WHUP

WHUP WHUP WHUP

SHUP

BEST WISHES, RAKU DEAREST!

TACHIBANA! ...

HURRY AND CATCH UP TO HER!

SHE'S UP AHEAD AT THE TOP OF THE MOUN-TAIN.

I'M...

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU AND I BECAME FRIENDS!!

REALLY!

WHUP WHUP WHUP, WHUP

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

YES!

ME TOO!

WAIT UP, CHITOGE! HERE I COME!

UP AHEAD... AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...

FINALLY, A CLEARING...

PHEW!

RUSTLE

I THOUGHT THE SOUND CAME FROM THIS DIRECTION...BUT THIS DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT...

Am I lost?

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

UH-OH... THAT'S WEIRD...

THIS PLACE ...

!

HUH?

Roger.
WHOOSH
Here I go!

WHUP WHUP WHUP

WHUP WHUP WHUP

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...

...MISTRESS MARIKA?

# Chapter-220:-Last

WELL...

MY HEART ACHES.

TERRIBLY ...

BOTH.

PHYSICALLY, YOU MEAN?

OR EMOTIONALLY?

BUT...

I FEEL SURPRISINGLY LIGHT.

I'M GLAD I SAW HIM.

WELL, THAT'S GOOD.

IS THAT SO?

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

SHP

IF RAKU AND THE OTHERS ARE REALLY HERE...

...WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I KNOW...

...I SHOULD TALK WITH THEM.

BUT I'M AFRAID.

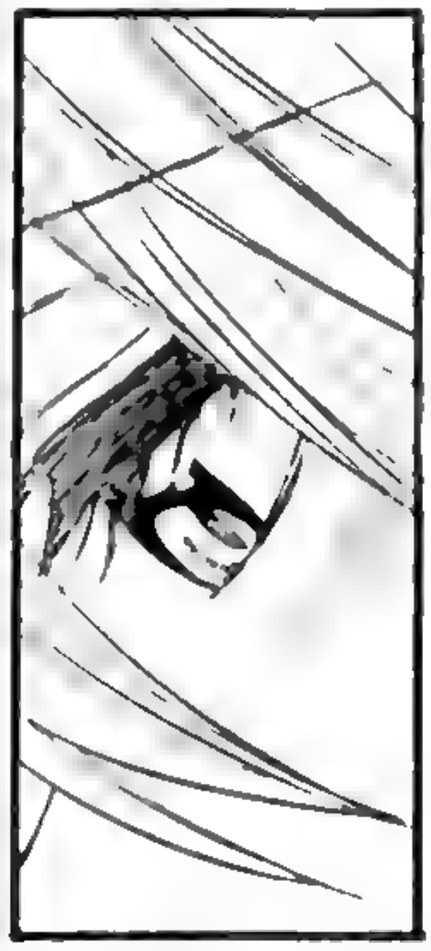
AFRAID TO TELL THEM EVERYTHING...

I CAN TALK WITH THEM LATER...

PLUS I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY CLUES.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THEY'RE HERE.

THERE'S NO POINT IN THINKING ABOUT IT NOW.



WAIT A SEC...

IS THAT...?

THIS IS...

OH!

TMP

...STRANGE FEELING!..?

WHAT IS THIS!...

WHAT A HUGE MANSION.

IS IT DESERTED ?

I'M GETTING SUCH A STRONG SENSE...

...OF DÉJÀ VU...

I...

I KNOW...

...THIS PLACE.

IN RAKU'S STORY ABOUT MEETING HIS PROMISE GIRL...

...SHE WAS SITTING ON A BIG ROCK, READING HER PICTURE BOOK...

AND I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE.

THAT MEANS...

YES...

I'M SURE OF IT!!

THAT ROCK...

...WHERE RAKU MET HIS PROMISE GIRL?

THIS IS...

OF COURSE.

IT'S LOCKED.

RATE

THE FENCE...

OVER HERE...

OH!

WAIT A SEC...

IT'LL BE OUR SECRET!

WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT!

THIS ONE BAR COMES LOOSE IF YOU TWIST IT.

HEY, LOOK!

THWUK

SH-SHF

I REMEMBER NOW.

YES.

...WITH EVERYONE...

KCHAK

AND I CAME HERE...

THIS MANSION...

...IS WHERE CHITOGE'S FAMILY LIVED TEN YEARS AGO.

TAK-TAK

RUN AWAY!

EEEK!

WHAT'S WRONG, KOSAKI? ARE YOU SCARED OF FROGS?

WAIT UP, YOU GUYS!!

I'M NOT SCARED... IT JUST STARTLED ME!

THAT'S RIGHT!

THIS IS CHITOGE'S HOUSE?

HEY, EVERYONE! MARIKA'S HERE!

SHE'S A FRIEND OF THE MISTRESS, RIGHT?

COME ON IN.

UM, IS MY BIG SISTER HERE?

WE ALL PLAYED TOGETHER.

IT WAS JUST FOR ONE SUMMER, BUT WE ALL BECAME GOOD FRIENDS...

ME, CHITOGE, ICHIJO...

...AND MARIKA AND YUI TOO...

I REMEMBER NOW. WE WERE ALL TOGETHER.

AND TSUGUMI, AND OF COURSE HARU...

YES...

CHITOGE'S ROOM-WAS ON THE SECOND FLOOR...

AND...

HARU LIKES THAT BOOK?

YES. SHE REALLY LOVES THE PRINCE!

HANG ON. IT'S OVER IN THAT CLOSET...

WELL, SHE CAN BORROW IT AGAIN!

THIS...

...

!

RCHAK

"Poor prince. We'll reunite you with your princess," they said.

When the prince put the rings on their fingers, the angels appeared once again.

They brought the princess back to life.

And then ~~they~~ the prince and princess ~~went to heaven.~~ lived happily ever after ~~in Heaven.~~

The End.

...THE END OF THE PICTURE BOOK, RIGHT?

THIS IS...

They brought the princess back to life.

MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER CLUE SOMEWHERE?

BUT I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE.

SHP

SHP

I'M SURE OF IT.

THIS IS WHERE RAKU AND HIS PROMISE GIRL MET.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRITTEN HERE.

WHAT IS IT?

HM?

HOLD...

...ON...

HUH?

YOU CAN KEEP IT!

REALLY? ARE YOU SURE?

YOU LOVE THIS BOOK TOO, KOSAKI?

THANK YOU, CHITOGE!

TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!

YEAH! AS A TOKEN OF OUR FRIEND-SHIP!

ALL OF IT...!

I REMEMBER NOW.

YES.

CHIIIRP

CHIRP CHIRPA CHIRP———...

HEY, CHITOGE AND KOSAKI! COME IN!

HI, CHITOGE! HI, KOSAKI!

HUH? RAKU ISN'T HERE YET?

HI!

HI!

TMP TMP

WHAT?

YOU'RE GOING BACK HOME, YUI?!

WE HAFTA GO BACK HOME SOON, SO I WANTED TO TALK WITH HER ABOUT A LOT OF STUFF FIRST.

YES.

MY MOM'S NOT FEELING WELL, SO I CAME TO SEE HER.

HUH?

YUI... YOU'RE HERE, BUT NOT RAKU?

YOUR DADDY AND RAKU'S DADDY FINISHED WORKING OUT THEIR AGREEMENT.

YOU'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE USA SOON, CHITOGE.

OH...

...

...RAKU'S LEAVING TOO?

SO THAT MEANS ...

YES.

MAMA SAID WE'D STAY TILL THE END OF SUMMER...

ME TOO!

BUT I DON'T WANNA GO HOME! I WANNA STAY WITH RAKKY LONGER, AND WITH ALL OF YOU!!

MY DADDY SAID WE'RE GOING HOME SOON TOO!

I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN...

YEAH.

AFTER WE GOT TO BE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS...

WE'LL ALL BE FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER...

MAYBE IF WE ALL MAKE A PROMISE TO MEET UP AGAIN...

WELL...

A PROM-ISE?

IF WE PROMISE, IT'LL COME TRUE?

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE WE MEET AGAIN?

YUI...

HM... LET'S SEE...

THE STORY!

IF WE MAKE A PROMISE, LIKE THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS IN THE STORY...

...WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...?!

HUH?

YES...I THINK WE WILL.

!

AND I'M GONNA MAKE A PROMISE WITH RAKU TOO!

THEN, I PROMISE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN!

OKAY!

LET'S FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN, NO MATTER WHAT!

AND THEN WE'LL ALL GET MARRIED!

?!

!

?!

...RAKKY?!

YES...!

YOU WANT TO MARRY...

IT WOULD BE GREAT TO MAKE A PROMISE LIKE IN THE BOOK!

SURE! I LOVE RAKU!

# Chapter 221: The Truth

WAIT A MINUTE!! WHATCHA TALKIN' 'BOUT, CHITOGE?!

HM... WELL...

HEY, YUI... WHERE COULD I GET A LOCK AND A KEY LIKE THIS?

W... W... W...

IT'S DECIDED!

WE ALREADY HAVE AN AGREEMENT TO GET MARRIED!

...

WHAT'S A FIANCÉ?

?

MY FIANCÉ!

HE'S MY... MY...

I'M GONNA MARRY RAKKY!

ULP!

OH YEAH? WELL, DID RAKU SAY HE LOVES YOU, CHITOGE?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LOVE THE PERSON YOU MARRY!

ULP!

WELL, DID RAKU SAY HE LOVES YOU?

HM...

I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

THESE FLOWERS, AND THIS...

WELL, RAKKY GAVE ME LOTS OF PRESENTS!

ME TOO!

YEAH, WELL, I...

JUST THE OTHER DAY...

WELL, RAKU'S ALWAYS SUPER NICE TO ME!

COME ON, YOU TWO. NO FIGHTING!

?!

COULD HE?

MY DAD HAS A FRIEND WHO MAKES JEWELRY.

HE COULD MAKE A LOCK AND KEY LIKE THIS.

YES. THERE'RE FOUR KEYS IN THE STORYBOOK, REMEMBER?

BETWEEN THE PRINCE AND THE ANGELS.

FOUR KEYS?

BUT IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO MAKE JUST ONE SET.

WE'LL NEED FOUR KEYS.

NO FAIR! I WANT THE PRINCESS KEY!

BUT I GET THE PRINCESS KEY!

STOP BICKERING, YOU TWO!

...AND PROMISE TO MEET UP AGAIN ONE DAY.

WE'LL PLEDGE OUR EVER-LASTING FRIEND-SHIP...

THE FIVE OF US, COUNTING RAKU, WERE TOGETHER THE MOST THIS SUMMER, RIGHT?

ONE FOR EACH OF US.

YEAH, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

HEY, EVERY-ONE!

THE KEYS ARE READY!

WOOOOOOW!!

TA-DAA!!

JUST IN TIME, BEFORE WE ALL LEAVE...

A LOCK AND FOUR KEYS...

OOOOOH, THEY'RE SO PRETTY!

COOOOL!

BUT HE TURNED IT INTO A PENDANT SO IT'S EASIER TO CARRY.

THE CREATOR SAID THE STYLE IS A BIT RANDOM, SO IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE PICTURE BOOK.

KHHH

RR

WHICH ONE IS THE PRINCESS KEY?

SO...

...

GRRRRR

WHICH ONE OF YOU...?

YES!!

THERE'S JUST ONE KEY THAT OPENS THE LOCK.

YOU REALLY WANT TO PLEDGE MARRIAGE WITH RAKU?

WELL, I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO LET RAKKY DECIDE.

PAY ATTENTION! THIS IS IMPOR-TANT! WHICH ONE OF US D'YOU WANNA MARRY?

WAIT A MINUTE... MAR-RIAGE?!

WHATCHA TALKIN' 'BOUT?

YOU'RE SURE POPULAR, RAKKY!

HUH?!

WHO D'YOU WANNA MARRY? IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

WHSH

WHICH OF YOU?

I...

GLANCE

IT'S ME, RIGHT? WE'RE ENGAGED! TELL HER!

C'MON, MAKE UP YOUR MIND! WHO D'YOU LIKE BETTER, ME OR MARIKA?!

GACK!

WHAT'S "ENGAGED"?

AAAAAAGH!!

CHITOGE, I GUESS.

WELL... BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU...

GAAAAH!!

I DUNNO... I GUESS 'CAUSE SHE HAS LONG HAIR AND IT'S PRETTY?

WHY?! WHY NOT ME?!

WHY CHITOGE ?!

REALLY? YOU REALLY CHOOSE ME?!

HUH?

WELL...I MEAN...

OH... UM, OKAY...

TOMORROW, WHEN WE ALL SAY GOODBYE, WE'LL MAKE A PROMISE LIKE IN THE BOOK, OKAY?

OKAY!! SO, YOU PROMISE ?!

Just give me a year or two...

The prince and princess lived happily ever after

The End.

SHP

SKWEEZ

THE PROMISE WE DECIDED TO MAKE TO EACH OTHER.

...BUT I HAVE A PROMISE TO MAKE WITH YOU-KNOW-WHO FIRST.

DADDY AND I GO ON THE AIR-PLANE TOMOR-ROW.

WHEN I CRY, HE ALWAYS COMFORTS ME!

HE ALWAYS HELPS ME WHEN I NEED IT.

I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

HE WAS SHY ABOUT IT, BUT HE LOVES ME!

YAY!! ME AN' RAKU ARE GONNA GET MARRIED!

IT FELL OUT?

I THOUGHT SO... IT'S A PAGE FROM THE PICTURE BOOK.

TAKTAKTAK

!

HUH?

WAIT...

"Poor prince. We'll reunite you with your princess," they said.

BETTER GET THIS TO KOSAKI!

I'M OKAY. IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.

OUCH!

HERE. I'VE GOT A BAND-AID FOR YOU.

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, KOSAKI...

MOM SAYS YOU GOTTA BE CAREFUL WITH CUTS OR GERMS MIGHT GET IN.

DO YOU LOVE CHITOGE?

RAKU?

HEY...

I MEAN, I LIKE HER. AND I LIKE MARI TOO.

HM... NOT EX-ACTLY.

BUT THE TRUTH IS...

BUT... I DIDN'T WANNA SAY IT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ...

REALLY ...

I LOVE YOU, KOSAKI.

REALLY ...?

...

...I'D LIKE TO MARRY.

YOU'RE THE ONE...

THAT'LL HURT CHITOGE'S FEELINGS.

SHE WAS SO EXCITED.

BUT...

I CAN'T PROMISE HER WE'LL GET MARRIED...

WELL, THEN...I'D BETTER TALK TO CHITOGE!

WAIT...

M...ME TOO!

VERY MUCH!

I'VE LOVED YOU FOR A LONG TIME!

FOR REAL?!

WAIT ...

I HAVE AN IDEA...

HEY...

Rats
Rosary

YEAH...

YOU'VE GOTTA LEAVE SOON, RIGHT?

THIS IS GOODBYE. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THAT PROMISE, WE'D BETTER HURRY UP AND DO IT!

HERE'S THE REAL KEY!

HERE, CHITOGE!

KA-

SHING

UM, CHI-TOGE?

ACTU-ALLY... I... WELL...

YOU CAN HAVE THE KEY, KOSAKI.

HERE.

KA-

SHING

HUH?

CHITOGE? WHY...?

WELL, YOU LOVE RAKU...

...AND RAKU LOVES YOU, RIGHT?

AND YOU'RE THE ONE HE LOVES, KOSAKI!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MARRY THE PERSON YOU LOVE.

WILL YOU PROMISE ME SOMETHING ELSE?

INSTEAD, RAKU...

HUH?

HOW DID YOU KNOW, CHITOGE?

C'MON, I KNEW IT ALL ALONG. IT'S OBVIOUS!

UM... I...

W- WHAT?

IS THAT TRUE, KOSAKI?

WAIT A MINUTE... NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT THIS!!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE CARE OF HER, OR ELSE.

GOT THAT?

...YOU'LL MAKE KOSAKI HAPPY.

PROMISE ME...

IF YOU LOVE HER, RAKKY, THEN THAT'S THAT.

SNIF- FLE...

WORMP

GOOD!

I PROMISE.

GOT IT.

PROM-ISE!!

OKAY...

...

HUH?

BUT...

HOW'S THAT?

WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, IF YOU DON'T MARRY KOSAKI, PROMISE YOU'LL MARRY ME!

THEN PROMISE ME SOMETHING TOO!

GUESS I SHOULD HAVE YOU PROMISE ME SOMETHING TOO.

TEE-HEE... YOU SURE ARE POPULAR, RAKKY.

THAT WE'LL ALL BE GOOD FRIENDS AGAIN.

LET'S PROM-ISE...

...THAT WE'LL ALL MEET AGAIN...

AND...

YES!

PROMISE?

RATS. IT'S TIME TO LEAVE.

WE'D BETTER HURRY.

IT'S TSU-GUMI!

MIS-TRESS...

WHS-HH-HH!

ZAWSZE IN LOVE...

WHSHHH

...AND KEEP IT SAFE!

BEAR IT CLOSE TO YOUR HEART...

...AND I'LL TAKE THIS KEY.

YOU TAKE THIS LOCK...

YES!

...AND THEN...

WE'LL USE THE KEY TO OPEN THE LOCK...

ONE DAY, WHEN WE'RE ALL GROWN UP, WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

WE'LL GET MARRIED!

# Chapter 222: Fake

It's a lovely day... Shall we sing a song?
Yay!!

ZAWSZE IN LOVE...

ONE DAY, WHEN WE'RE ALL GROWN UP, WE'LL MEET AGAIN! WE'LL USE THE KEY TO OPEN THE LOCK...

...AND THEN...

YOU TAKE THIS LOCK, AND I'LL TAKE THIS KEY.

HOLD IT CLOSE TO YOUR HEART AND KEEP IT SAFE!

WE'LL GET MARRIED!

RAKKYYYY! LET'S TAKE A PICTURE TOGETHER BEFORE WE LEAVE!

YEAH, GOOD IDEA!

...MUST'VE FALLEN OUT.

THIS PART...

"Poor prince. We'll reunite you with your princess," they said.

When the prince put the rings on their fingers, the angels appeared once again.

The End.

The prince and princess lived happily ever after

They brought the princess back to

And life then the

OOPS...

FWAP

WE'LL PROBABLY ...

...NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

Date:

TING

OH WELL.

FWAP

The End

TOO LATE.

*BOOK: DIARY, CHITOGE AGE 5

SO...

...WILL BE REALLY HAPPY TOGETHER.

I BET RAKU AND KOSAKI ...

KCHAM...

"Poor prince. We'll reunite you with your princess," they said.

When the prince put the rings on their fingers, the angels appeared once again.

They brought the princess back to life.

And then the

The prince and princess lived happily ever after

CRINKLE

CHI-TOGE...

CHITOGE ...!

CHI-TOGE ...

CHI-TOGE ...

SKWEEZ

AND I... DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER...

YOU DID THE SAME THING TEN YEARS AGO.

CHI-TOGE...

...BEING SO SWEET, CHITOGE ...

YOU'VE GOT NO BUSINESS...

ロスタイム
ニセコイ

I WAS WRONG.

OH.

SNIFF...

SNIF-FLE...

IT WASN'T ME.

I THOUGHT I'D LET GO.

THAT I WAS OKAY WITH NOT BEING THE ONE.

BUT REALLY, I CLUNG TO THE HOPE...

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE WORDS...

"ZAWSZE IN LOVE"?

SOMEHOW, DEEP DOWN, I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE.

TEN YEARS AGO, THEY FELL IN LOVE...

...AND THEY'VE LOVED EACH OTHER ALL THIS TIME.

...AFTER ALL.

IT'S NOT ME...

I'M NOT THE ONE.

IT'S NOT ME.

I...

I...

WAH ...

IT'S SO OBVIOUS ...

IT HAS TO BE KOSAKI...!

...AFTER ALL...

WAAAH

WAAAAH...

WAH...

I'M JUST A FAKE...

A FAKE...

IF SHE REMEMBERS...

...BECAUSE SHE [redacted] REMEMBERED? OR BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO REMEMBER?

DID CHITOGE COME BACK HERE...

NO!

IT'S NOT RIGHT!

I CAN'T LET HER GIVE UP WHAT SHE WANTS FOR ME AGAIN!

SLAM

I CAN'T LET HER JUST RUN AWAY HURT LIKE THIS!

I'VE GOT TO FIND HER...

...AND TALK WITH HER!

...I WANT TO BE THERE WITH HER!

BUT IF SHE'S HURT...

I KNOW SOMEONE HAS TO GET HURT.

WE BOTH LOVE THE SAME PERSON.

I WANT TO SHARE HER PAIN...!

VOOSH

KAFOOOOM!

NOT THAT IT'S ANY SURPRISE...

BUT...

GAH!

KHR

TMP

AFTER ALL YOUR TALK, IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?

RRR

WELL, SEISHIRO?

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.

I'M THE ONE WHO TAUGHT YOU TO FIGHT.

KHHH

MASTER CLAUDE IS SUPER TOUGH!

RR RR

WHAT IF SHE JUST GETS HURT WORSE?

I CAN'T SEE WHY YOU THINK HE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SEE THE MISTRESS.

HURT SO BADLY SHE CAN'T RECOVER?

DID I TEACH YOU TO TAKE ON BATTLES YOU DON'T HAVE A PRAYER OF WINNING?

WHY ARE YOU TAKING THIS SO FAR? WHAT IS IT ABOUT THAT GUY?

I BELIEVE IN HER!

...SHE'LL COME OUT OF IT EVENTUALLY. SHE'LL GET BACK ON HER FEET AND SHOW US THAT SMILE AGAIN.

NO MATTER HOW BADLY SHE GETS HURT...

IF SHE'S GOING TO GET HURT...

...THEN SHE SHOULD GO AHEAD AND GET HURT GOOD AND DEEP.

?!

THE MISTRESS HAS A TENDER HEART, AND SHE'S ACTUALLY QUITE FRAGILE AND WEAK IN SOME WAYS.

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO...

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

THAT'S WHY SHE'S RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM NOW!

...WHAT THEN?

IF HER HEART GETS WOUNDED SO BADLY IT NEVER HEALS...

WHAT IF SHE GETS COMPLETELY DEVASTATED?

THE WAY YOU SEE THINGS ISN'T ALWAYS RIGHT, CLAUDE.

AND ME...

THE WAY YOU SEE THE MISTRESS AND RAKU ICHIJO...

I JUST... ...

...BELIEVE IN THE MISTRESS'S STRENGTH.

HMPH!!

OH YEAH? PROVE IT, THEN!!

KA-

WOOSH

SHRAK

BLAM

...YOUR CONVICTIONS ARE NOTHING BUT DELUSIONS!

UNLESS YOU CAN BEAT ME...

THE VICTOR WILL DECIDE WHAT'S RIGHT!

SHOOP

!!

PLOP

GAH !!

KA-FOOM!!!

THWOK

WHA-?!

?!

ZOOSH

FASTER TO THROW IT BACK!!

NO...

RUN!!

KA

A DECOY?!

KA-BAM

IT DIDN'T EXPLODE?!

KCHAK

FWA M

YES...

SO IT WOULD SEEM...

...SEI-SHIRO.

CHECK-MATE...

A CHAIN ...?!

WHAT THE...

ZO OSH

WHUNK

KA VOOSH

YANK

...

...MASTER CLAUDE.

CHECK-MATE...

...

...THAT MOVE.

I NEVER TAUGHT YOU...

AND ME TOO.

THAT GOES FOR THE MISTRESS, FOR RAKU ICHIJO...

YOU DON'T ALWAYS SEE THINGS CORRECTLY, MASTER CLAUDE.

YES.

LIKE I SAID...

I went to the trouble of wearing a jacket for the occasion.

# SHING

## Chapter 223: Tables Turned

I LEARNED IT WHEN YOU WEREN'T WATCHING, MASTER CLAUDE.

WHEN DID YOU LEARN THIS SKILL?

A WEIGHTED CHAIN?

BELIEVE IN HER. PLEASE.

THE MISTRESS, TOO, IS NO LONGER THE WEAK CHILD YOU ONCE KNEW.

WE'RE ALL GROWING AND CHANGING WITHOUT YOU NOTICING IT.

HMPH ...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE DEFEAT AT YOUR HANDS!

MASTER CLAUDE ...!

I CAN'T LET HER BE WITH A SOFT, WEAK GUY LIKE THAT...

I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP! I JUST CAN'T...!

BUT JUST YOU WAIT!

...?!

YOU'RE SO STRONG... AND YET... HAVE YOU NO DESIRE?!

WHY, SEISHIRO? WHY?

HOW CAN YOU STAND TO SEE HER FALL INTO THE CLUTCHES OF A GUY LIKE THAT?!

I KNOW YOU LOVE HER ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY!

I SEE IT.

YOU LOVE THE MISTRESS, DON'T YOU?

ENOUGH TO DIE FOR HER...

I BELIEVE RAKU ICHIJO IS GOOD FOR THE MISTRESS.

...?!

I TOLD YOU.

I BELIEVE IN YOU.

I BELIEVE THAT YOU AND THE MISTRESS TOGETHER COULD MAKE THE BEEHIVE EVEN STRONGER.

...??

I KNEW YOU WOULD DEFEAT ME ONE DAY AND THAT I WOULD TELL YOU THIS...

THE SECRET LURKING IN MY HEART.

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?!

DAMMIT, SEISHIRO ...!!

I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND...

ER... MASTER CLAUDE...?

LISTEN UP, SEISHIRO ...!!

I'VE ALWAYS FELT YOU SHOULD MARRY THE MISTRESS !!

GRAAH

YOU HAVE THE STATURE AND THE SKILL!

IF I TELL THE BOSS ALL THAT YOU'VE ACHIEVED, HE'LL LISTEN...!

WOBBLE

THE MISTRESS IS BEGUILED NOW BY THAT LITTLE WORM, BUT IF SHE KNEW HOW YOU CARE FOR HER, SHE WOULD CHANGE HER MIND.

WELL, SEISHIRO? WHAT DO YOU SAY? IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!

WHY, YOU'RE FAR MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN THAT PATHETIC LITTLE MONKEY!!

THE REST OF THE GANG TRUSTS YOU TOO. AND ABOVE ALL, I'M YOUR GUARDIAN!

NOBODY WOULD OPPOSE YOUR UNION!

I RAISED YOU AS MY OWN SON, AND I'M PROUD OF YOU.

SMIRK

HEH HEH HEH...HEH HEH...HEH HEH HEH... HEH HEH... HEH...

HEH HEH... HEH HEH HEH...

HEH...

LET'S DO THIS, SEISHIRO!

I KNOW YOU WANT IT TOO.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT ME.

MASTER CLAUDE...

?!

MASTER CLAUDE... YOU...

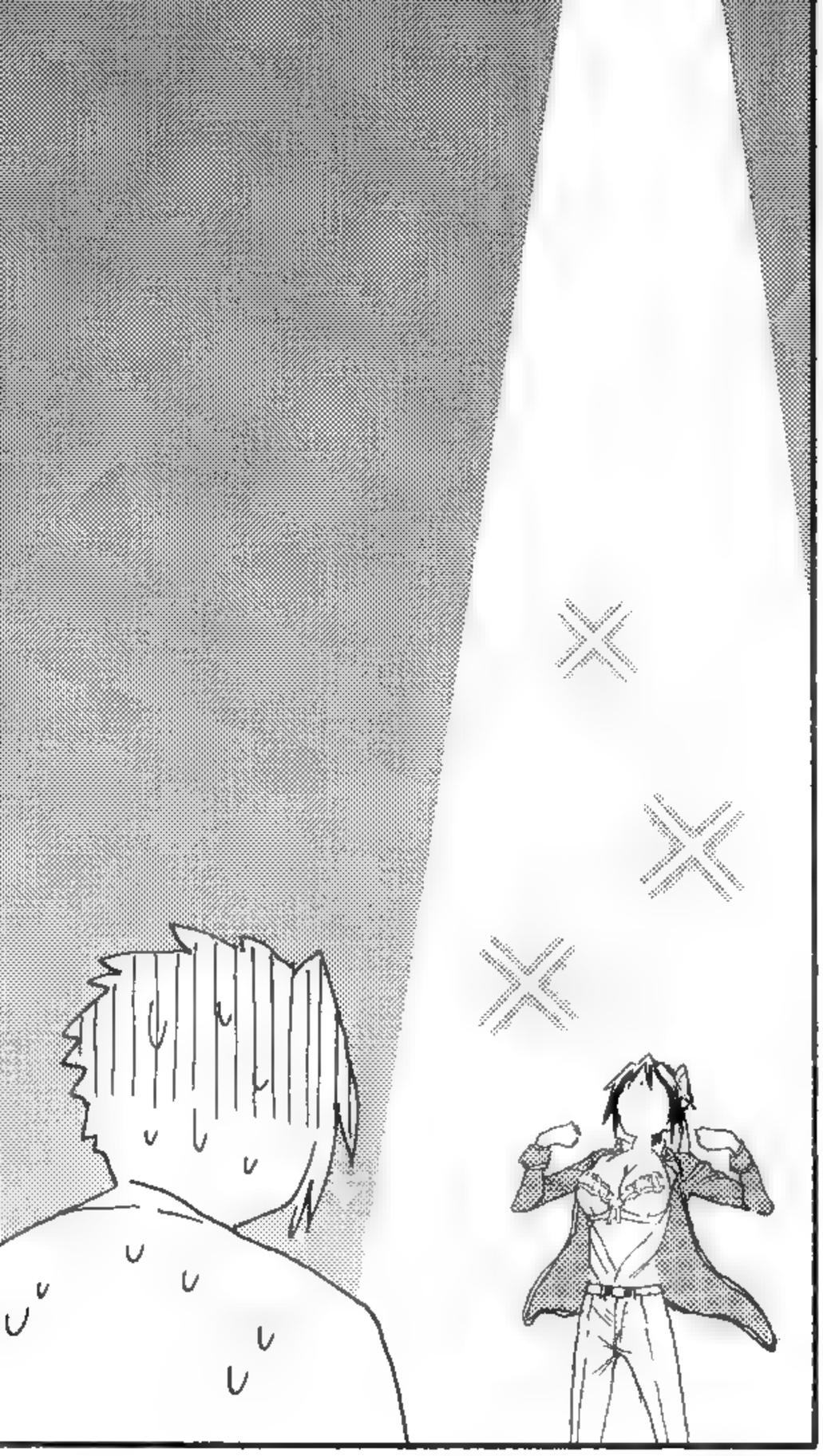
I SEE... SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

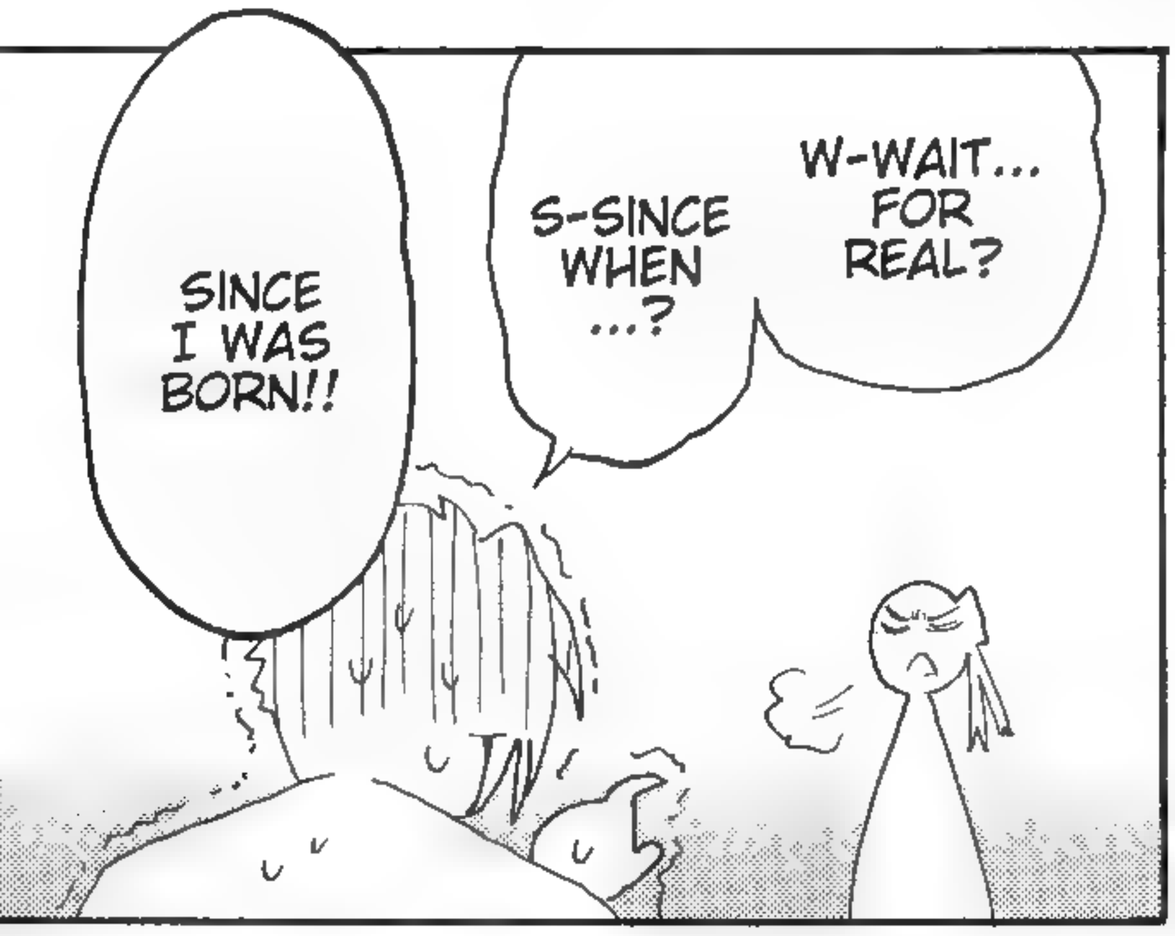
WHAT... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

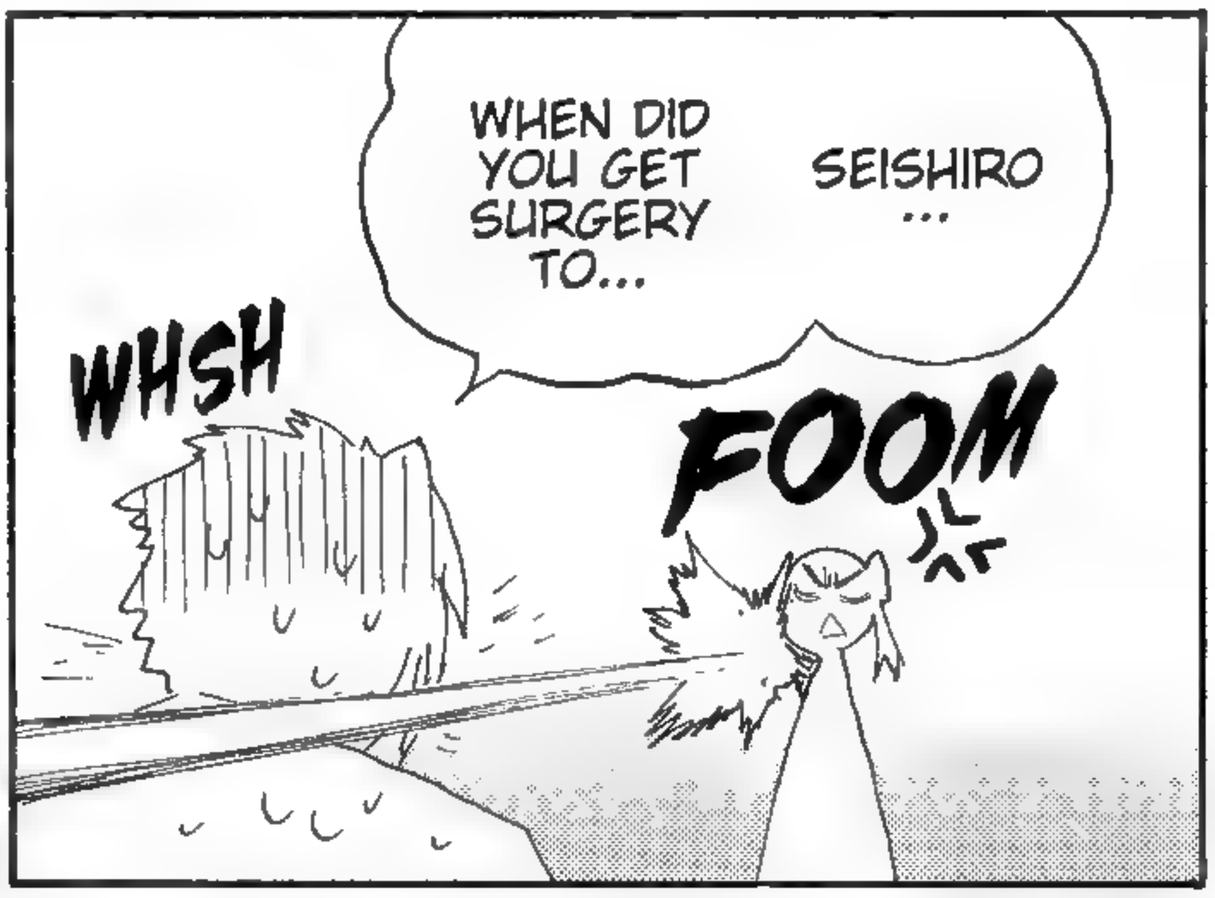
...?!

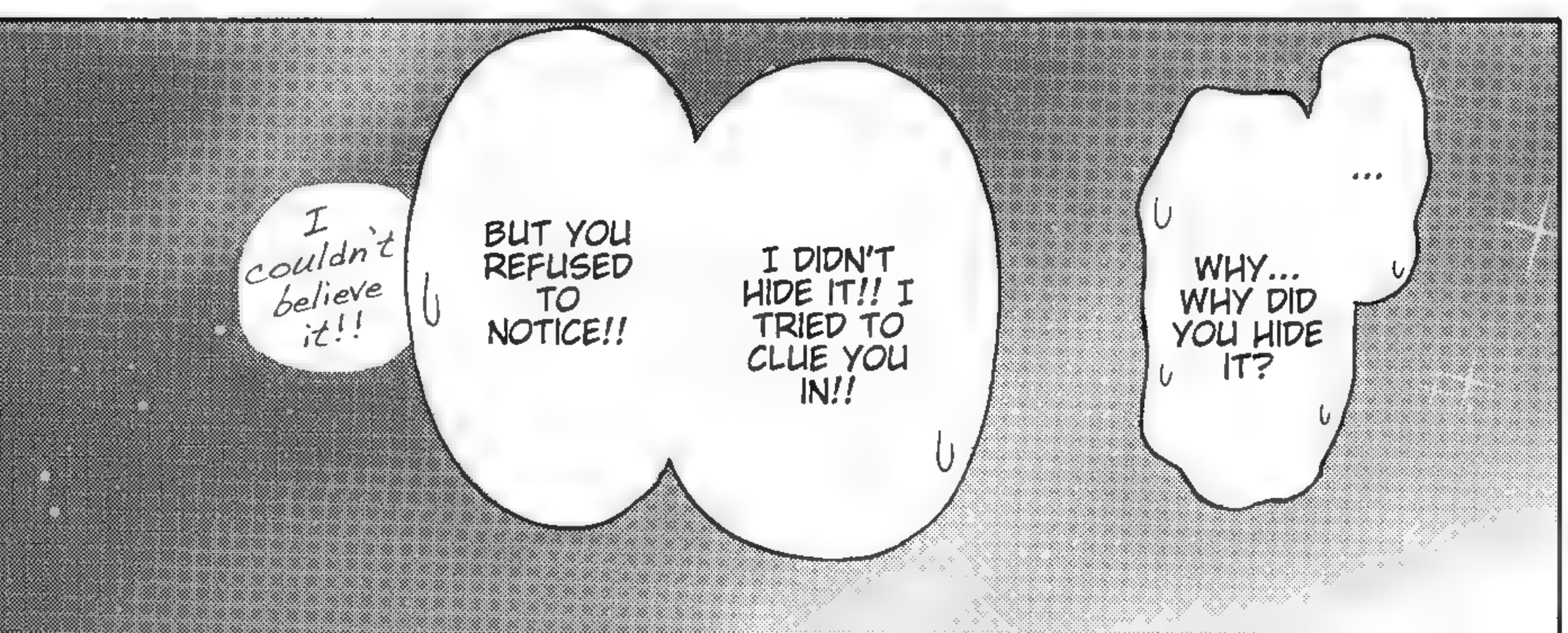
YANK

RRRR




SINCE I WAS BORN!!
S-SINCE WHEN ...?
W-WAIT... FOR REAL?


WHEN DID YOU GET SURGERY TO...
SEISHIRO ...
WHSH
FOOM


I couldn't believe it!!
BUT YOU REFUSED TO NOTICE!!
I DIDN'T HIDE IT!! I TRIED TO CLUE YOU IN!!
...
WHY... WHY DID YOU HIDE IT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY NEVER SAW ME...

BUT SOMEHOW I THOUGHT THAT, DEEP DOWN, YOU MUST KNOW.

IT'S TRUE... THERE ARE OTHER GUYS IN THE GANG WHO HAVEN'T NOTICED.

YOU DON'T ALWAYS SEE EVERYTHING, MASTER CLAUDE.

YOU GET IT NOW, DON'T YOU?

LIKE SHE AND I DO...

AND IN RAKU ICHIJO.

...BELIEVE IN THE MISTRESS.

LIKE I BELIEVE IN HER.

IF YOU BELIEVE IN ME...

THAT, TOO, IS A FORM OF POWER.

TO BELIEVE AND TO WATCH OVER...

I LOSE.

YOU WIN.

I HAVE NO WORDS.

YEAH...

TSUGUMI'S TOUGH. I'M SURE SHE'S FINE.

I GUESS THAT FIGHTING MUST HAVE BEEN SEISHIRO, HUH?

IT'S QUIET NOW.

YEAH.

MIGHT AS WELL GO CHECK IT OUT.

SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON THIS SIDE EITHER.

CHITOGE MUST BE UP THERE, RIGHT?

DON'T PLAY STUPID.

IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY. COULD'VE BEEN AN ISSUE AT HOME...

HM... GOOD QUESTION.

WHY CHITOGE DIS-APPEARED, I MEAN?

BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW WHY?

I THINK...

SOMEHOW, SHE FIGURED OUT HOW KOSAKI AND ICHIJO FEEL ABOUT EACH OTHER.

THAT'S JUST LIKE CHITOGE.

AND SHE TOOK HERSELF OUT OF THE PICTURE.

THE FACT THAT...

...CHITOGE FELT MORE AND MORE DRAWN TO ICHIJO...

I SAW IT.

I WAS THERE THE WHOLE TIME.

WHAT?

YOU THOUGHT I HADN'T NOTICED?

IT WAS HARD FOR ME...

...BECAUSE I CARE FOR CHITOGE TOO.

BUT I DECIDED TO ROOT FOR KOSAKI.

I KNOW SHE'S LOVED HIM SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.

IF THEY ONLY COULD HAVE OPENED UP TO EACH OTHER SOONER...

WHY DID IT HAVE TO COME TO THIS?

IF THE TWO OF THEM HAD JUST GOTTEN IT TOGETHER SOONER...

BESIDES, AS FAR AS CHITOGE'S FEELINGS GO...

NO MATTER WHAT WE DID OR DIDN'T DO...

I'M SURE THE OUTCOME WOULD'VE BEEN THE SAME.

THERE'S NO POINT IN WISHING THAT NOW.

THEY TRULY FEEL WHAT THEY FEEL. ALL THREE OF THEM.

AND THIS IS WHERE IT BROUGHT THEM.

THE AMOUNT OF TIME ISN'T EVERYTHING, IS IT?

SO YOU'RE ON CHITOGE'S SIDE?

NO. I'M NEUTRAL.

BUT...

WHEN SOMEONE HAS LOVED SOMEONE WITH STRONG FAITH FOR YEARS AND YEARS ...

WELL, THERE'S SOMETHING TOUCHING ABOUT THAT TO WHOEVER WITNESSES IT.

AND STILL...

IF SOMEONE GENUINELY LOVES ANOTHER ...

I SEE THE BEAUTY IN THAT TOO.

EVEN IF IT'S SHORTER ...

EVEN IF IT GREW OUT OF SOMETHING ELSE...

I'M ON THE SIDE OF LOVE!

NOPE.

YOU'RE ON ICHIJO'S SIDE.

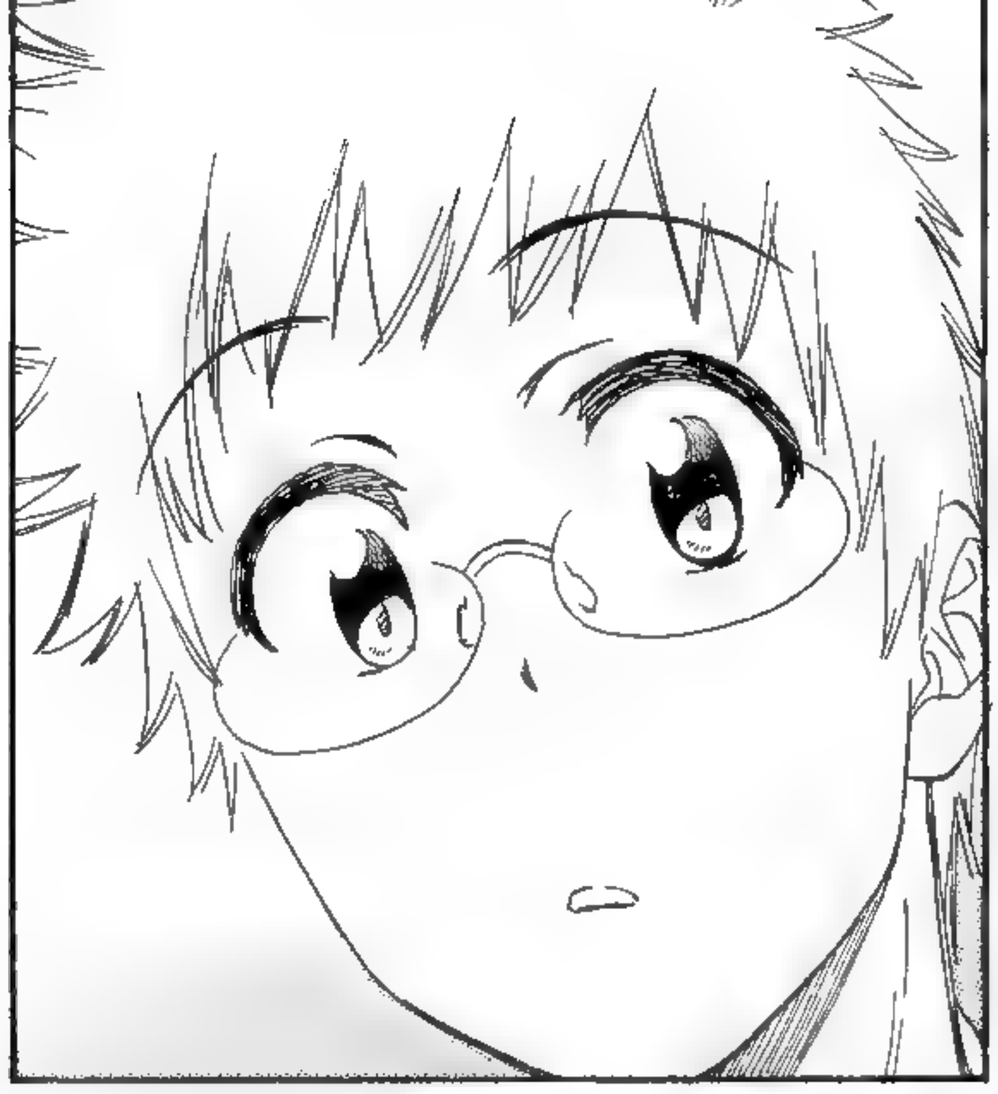
IN OTHER WORDS ...

I DIDN'T GET TO ASK YOU THE OTHER DAY...

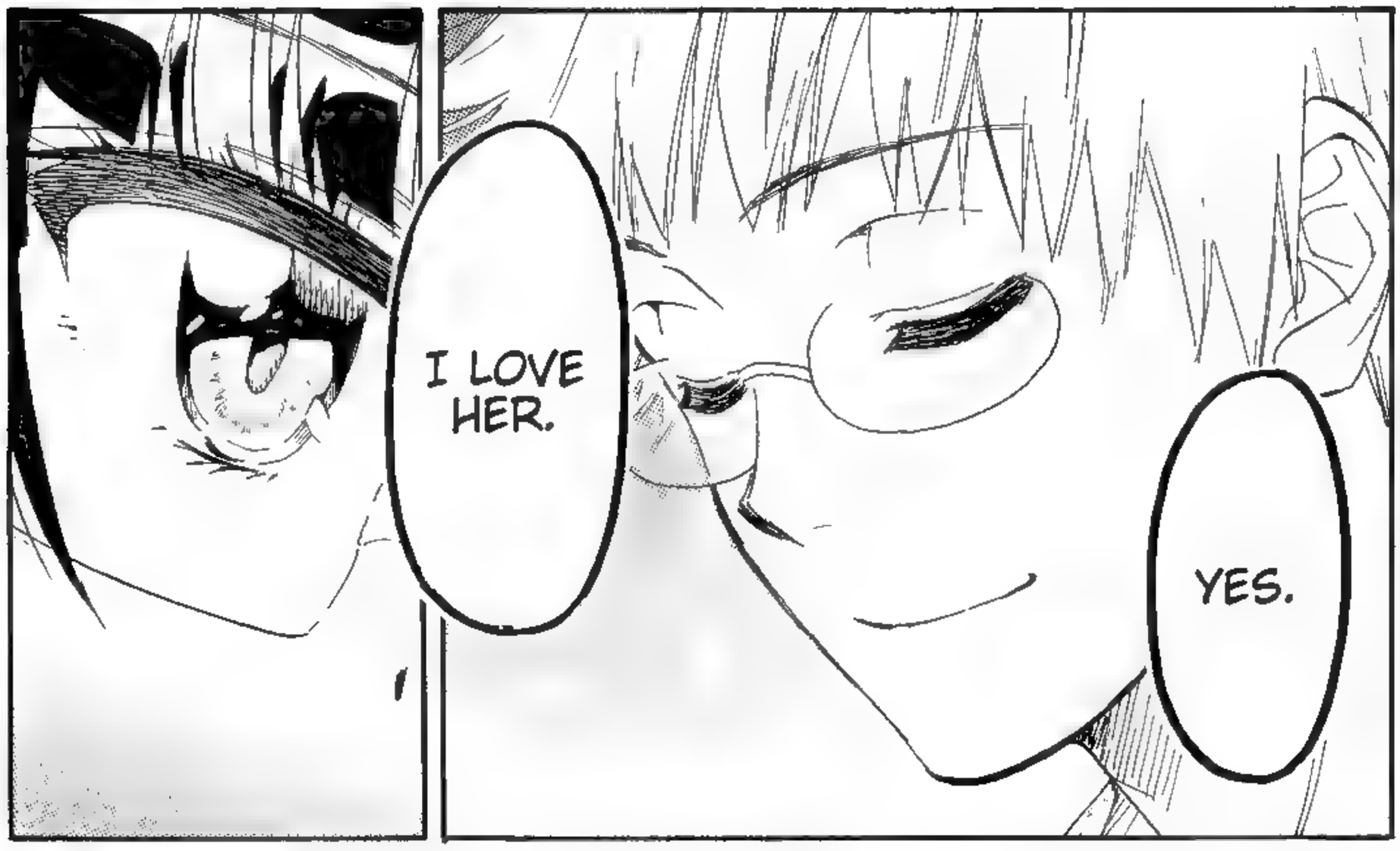
BY THE WAY...

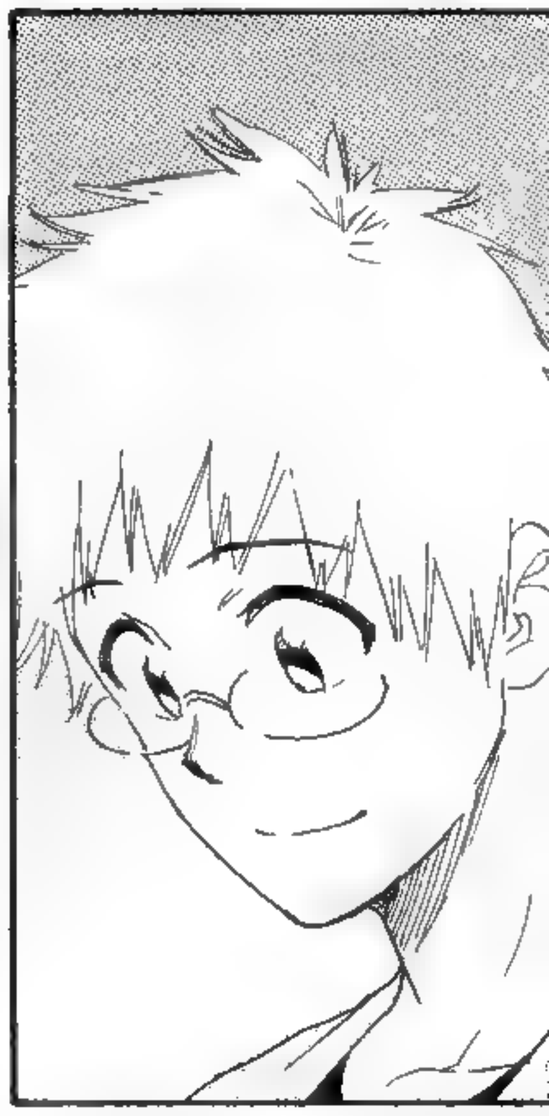
HOPEFULLY, NOBODY WILL LOOK BACK WITH REGRETS.

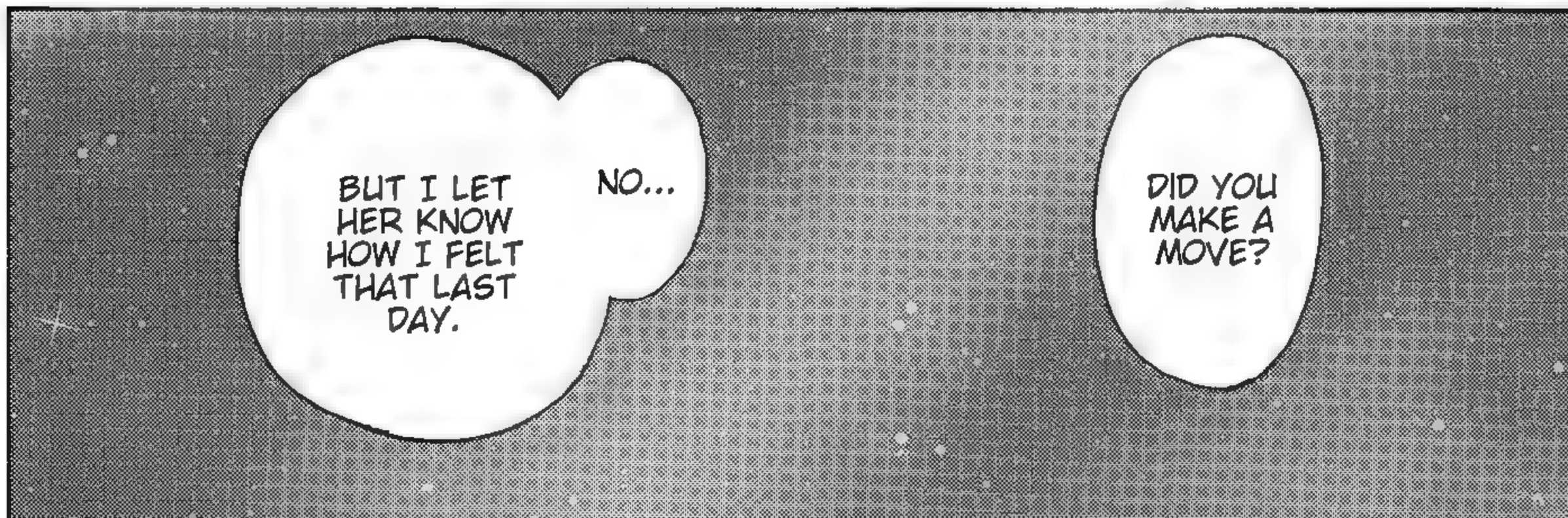
ANYWAY, THE LOVE WE'RE ROOTING FOR WILL REACH THE TURNING POINT SOON.



DO YOU STILL...
...LOVE MS. KYOKO?


I LOVE HER.
YES.




BUT I LET HER KNOW HOW I FELT THAT LAST DAY.
NO...
DID YOU MAKE A MOVE?

I DIDN'T INTEND TO...

...BUT RAKU MADE ME DO IT.

AND NOW I'M GLAD I DID.

OTHERWISE, I'M SURE I WOULD'VE HAD REGRETS.

YES.

YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, YOU KNOW.

?

I THINK I GET IT NOW.

HOW HARD IT IS TO TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM.

SO THIS IS HOW KOSAKI FELT ALL THIS TIME.

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO STRUGGLE ...

WHAT A SURPRISE!

WOW!!

SO YOU'RE THINKING OF CONFESSING TO YOUR CRUSH, RURI?

YES.

WELL, THAT'S AWESOME!! WHO IS HE? DO I KNOW HIM?

C'MON... WHO'S THE LUCKY GUY?

FINE.

WOOT WOOT!

I GET THAT YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR MS. KYOKO.

...UNTIL YOU'RE READY FOR A NEW LOVE.

SO I'LL WAIT...

I LOVE YOU.

MAIKO...

HUH?

WILL YOU CONSIDER ME...AT LEAST A LITTLE?

WHEN THAT HAPPENS...

HAH!

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU LOSE YOUR COOL.

SERVES YOU RIGHT!

HUH?

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

...KIRI-SAKI?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING...

WHUP WHUP WHUP

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

MARIKA ...?!

...

So... You'll need a new name...
Sachiko? Or maybe Tomoko...
Never mind. I can keep the one I have.
I like it just fine.
Hmm...
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

WHUP WHUP

IT'S A LONG STORY.

I WAS JUST HEADING BACK, ACTUALLY.

WHUP

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE U.S.!!

WHUP WHUP

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

MARIKA ?!

# Chapter 224: I Can't

I CAN'T HAVE YOU WANDERING AROUND DOWN HERE.

I TOLD RAKU DEAREST HE'D FIND YOU AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.

NOW, WOULD YOU PLEASE GO BACK TO WHERE YOU WERE?

...REALLY IS HERE...

SO... RAKU...

OH...

JUST LIKE TEN YEARS AGO?

DO YOU INTEND TO DO THE SAME THING ALL OVER AGAIN?

YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN.

WHAT YOU DID...

YOU REMEMBER NOW, DON'T YOU?

EVEN AFTER THEY FORGOT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED...

EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

RAKU AND KOSAKI LOVE EACH OTHER!

THE TWO OF THEM ...

THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN DRAWN TO EACH OTHER...

WELL ...

WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

THEY STILL...

...HAVE FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER.

I CAN'T...

...GET IN THE WAY OF THAT.

I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU...

...KIRISAKI.

SO WHAT IF THEY DO?

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOU?

I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE DROP OF SYMPATHY FOR YOU.

IN FACT, I THINK YOU'RE PATHETIC!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT IF YOU DISAPPEAR, THEY'LL JUST LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PHONY.

YOU PRETEND TO BE SELF-SACRIFICING, BUT YOU'RE REALLY JUST AFRAID OF GETTING HURT.

...OR YOU COULD HAVE COME CLEAN COMPLETELY AND THEN LET ONODERA HAVE HIM.

BUT INSTEAD YOU RAN AWAY.

...YOU COULD HAVE HIDDEN YOUR FEELINGS AND KEPT COMING TO SCHOOL EACH DAY LIKE NOTHING WAS WRONG...

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED ...

I GUESS ...

...YOU'RE JUST AS HARD ON YOURSELF.

YOU'RE ALWAYS ...

...SO HARSH.

...

...?

I LOVE RAKU...

...BUT I CAN'T JUST THROW MYSELF AT HIM WHEN IT'S TOTALLY CLEAR I'M ONLY GOING TO GET REJECTED...

BUT...

I CAN'T BE LIKE YOU.

THROWING IN THE TOWEL SO EASILY...

...EVEN GIVEN THE WAY RAKU DEAREST FEELS ABOUT YOU.

WELL! THAT'S CERTAINLY A PESSIMISTIC ATTITUDE.

I'M SURPRISED, ACTUALLY.

I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD.

I'M NOT AS STRONG AS YOU ARE.

BUT...

WHY, I'D SWITCH PLACES WITH YOU IN A HEARTBEAT!

IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES, I'D BE MAKING MOVES LEFT AND RIGHT!

BEFORE LONG, HE'LL FORGET ME COMPLETELY, JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

THAT'S WHY... I MIGHT AS WELL...

BESIDES, I'M NOTHING TO HIM.

...?!

?

I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND SOMETHING ...

ER... KIRISAKI? MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?

...

...??

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

YOU KNOW HOW RAKU DEAREST AND ONODERA FEEL, RIGHT?

YOU...

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.

YES...

...?

FIRST, I HEARD KOSAKI...

...SAY LOUD AND CLEAR THAT SHE LOVES RAKU.

I OVER-HEARD.

NOBODY REALIZED IT.

IT WAS AN ACCI-DENT.

AND I HEARD RAKU...

...TALKING WITH MAIKO.

HE SAID HE'S LOVED HER SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.

MY BEST GUESS...

IS THAT ALL YOU HEARD?!

NOTHING ELSE...?!

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, ANYWAY?

...? UM... YEAH...

...AS TO WHY KIRISAKI RAN AWAY...

...IS THAT SHE FOUND OUT EITHER HOW RAKU FEELS OR HOW ONODERA FEELS... OR BOTH...

THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED, ANYWAY.

SOUNDS LIKE BOTH, BASED ON WHAT SHE'S SAYING.

BUT...IT SEEMS LIKE...

...KIRISAKI DOESN'T KNOW...

...THAT RAKU DEAREST IS IN LOVE WITH TWO PEOPLE...

...AND THAT SHE...

...IS ONE OF THEM...

SHp

PLEASE... DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU'RE GIVING UP BECAUSE OF A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT?!

HA HA...

GIVE ME A BREAK!

MARIKA ...?

...?

RIGHT NOW!!!

HURRY UP AND GET BACK THERE!!

I AIN'T EVER SEEN SUCH A KNUCKLEHEAD IN MY LIFE!!

Y'KNOW, I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE THIS HORSE MANURE!!

M-MARIKA ?!

WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?

...?!

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING !!

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND HIM AT ALL!

GET BACK THERE AND FACE RAKU DEAREST!!

GO!!

YOU... YOU...

I AIN'T HAVIN' IT!!

YOU CAN'T JUST GO BELLY-UP AND GIVE UP NOW!!

YOU CAN'T...

FINALLY ...!

WHAT I TRIED SO LONG AND HARD TO DO...

YOU'RE FINALLY DOIN' IT...

YOU'VE LOVED HIM ALL THIS TIME, RIGHT?

IF YOU DON'T TELL HIM NOW, YOU'LL ALWAYS REGRET IT...!!

...WITHOUT EVEN TRYING...

YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE UP...

YOU CAN'T...

SQUEEZE

WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ...??

OH, PUH-LEASE!! GAH! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS!! THIS IS SOOO IDIOTIC!!

I TOLD HIM...

...DIDN'T I?

I USED MY WORDS AND SPOKE MY TRUTH OUT LOUD!!

EVEN KNOWING WHERE IT WOULD GET ME!!

OVER...

...AND OVER AGAIN...!

BE A LITTLE BIT HONEST WITH YOURSELF!!

THIS IS IT! THE TIME HAS COME!!

IS THAT HOW LITTLE HE MEANS TO YOU...?!

HAVE YOU EVER REALLY FACED RAKU DEAREST? EVEN ONCE?

IF YOU REALLY LOVE HIM...

...DON'T PRETEND IT'S NOTHING!!

...

PRETEND IT'S NOTHING...?

PRETEND THE WHOLE THING WAS NOTHING...

UM...

CHITOGE ...?

CH...

EVERYTHING I FELT FOR HIM...

I DON'T...

...DIS-LIKE YOU.

HEY, CHITOGE!

CHI-TOGE ?

HUH?

...

MARIKA ...

RAKU...!

NOW IT'S FUN TO BE AROUND HER.

HUH...!

THANK YOU.

I'M SORRY!

VOOSH

...PRETEND IT WAS NOTHING.

I CAN'T JUST...

...AND THAT I FELT WHAT I FELT!!

I'M GLAD... ...THAT WE MET...

TMP

BECAUSE...

...I'M SO GLAD WE MET.

...THIS ACHE...

DATE

SPLAT

WHAT IT FEELS IN MY HEART...!

KTNK

KTNK

I JUST CAN'T!!

I CAN'T PRETEND IT DOESN'T EXIST!!

SHP

FLOP

PHEW...

SHEESH...

WHAT A HANDFUL.

I SWEAR... GIRLS WITH LONG HAIR...

HON-ESTLY...

WHY ME?

HAHH

HAHH

...JUST BEYOND THAT HILL...

CHITOGE SHOULD BE...

THE SUN SHOULD COME UP SOON.

THE SKY IS STARTING TO LIGHTEN.

.....

HEY...

ICHIJO...!

ONODERA ...!

Maybe I'll cut my hair...
Whew...
TWIRL TWIRL

YOU TOO, ICHIJO!

I HEARD ALL THE NOISES... I WAS WORRIED!!

ONODERA! OH, GOOD! I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!

# Chapter 225: Confession

OH...

NO PROBLEM.

SORRY I SENT YOU OFF ON YOUR OWN!

I'M FINE. TSUGUMI CAME TO MY RESCUE.

OKAY. LET'S GET GOING.

I HOPE SHE'S STILL THERE.

I SAW TACHIBANA, AND SHE TOLD ME.

CHITOGE'S UP AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN!

ANYWAY, I'M GLAD WE FOUND EACH OTHER!

YES... IT'S A LONG STORY.

*WHAT?! MARIKA'S HERE?!*

...HAS SPARKED ICHIJO'S MEMORY...

I WONDER IF COMING HERE...

...AM THE GIRL HE MADE THE PROMISE WITH.

AND I...

...WAS MY FIRST LOVE.

ICHIJO...

BUT...

WHAT THEN?

WE HAVE TO FIND CHITOGE AND TALK WITH HER...

AAAAGH! THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE THINKING ABOUT THAT!

AND ALSO...

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...

GLANCE

I KNOW WHY CHITOGE RAN AWAY.

IF ICHIJO'S THERE, IT'LL PROBABLY BE HARD FOR CHITOGE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF THE TWO OF US TALK ON OUR OWN FIRST?

AND ICHIJO DOESN'T KNOW!

...DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...

SOMEHOW...

BUT I...

...DIFFERENT ABOUT ICHIJO TODAY.

THERE'S SOMETHING...

HUH?

WHY DO YOU THINK CHITOGE RAN AWAY?

UM...

ICHIJO?

HEY...

I WONDER IF ICHIJO ALSO KNOWS...

...HOW CHITOGE FEELS...

AND SHE DIDN'T EXPLAIN IT AT ALL.

IT WAS SO SUDDEN.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

BUT...

WELL...

...

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT A LOT...

!

...I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF ME.

BUT...

WHEN WE SAW HER IN THE U.S....

WITHOUT REALIZING IT, I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING REALLY AWFUL SOMEHOW...

I THOUGHT I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING...

BE-CAUSE ...

...THE MOMENT OUR EYES MET, SHE GAVE ME THE STRANGEST LOOK.

!!

YOU DIDN'T!!

BUT SOME-HOW...

...I CAN TELL SOMETHING'S REALLY BOTHERING HER.

YOU WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING AWFUL...

I'M SURE THAT'S NOT IT!!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

*HA HA...* THANK YOU.

...SHE TENDS TO BOTTLE IT ALL UP INSIDE, RIGHT?

BUT WHEN SOME-THING REALLY MAT-TERS...

SHE ALWAYS MAKES A BIG FUSS OVER STUFF THAT'S NO BIG DEAL.

YOU KNOW...

...CAN'T STAND SEEING HER...

...STRUG-GLING ALL ALONE, YOU KNOW?

SO...

I ALWAYS HAVE TO TEASE IT OUT OF HER.

I JUST...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BOTHERING HER, AND IT DOESN'T MATTER.

ICHIJO...

YOU...

...REALLY CARE A LOT...

...FOR CHI-TOGE...

...DON'T YOU?

WELL...

I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.

YES.

IT'S TRUE.

BUT I GUESS...

...SHE KEEPS THINGS INTERESTING, RIGHT?

SOMEHOW OR OTHER...

IT'S TOTALLY CLEAR TO ME.

I HAVE NO PROOF...

BUT I'M COMPLETELY SURE OF IT.

I SEE IT NOW.

YES...

# ICHIJO...

...

I'VE WATCHED HIM ALL THIS TIME...

I CAN JUST TELL...

MY LAST...

ONODERA ...?

...?

SO...

THIS MUST BE MY LAST...

RIGHT NOW...

BEFORE YOU SEE CHITOGE...

...?

...I WANT TO TELL YOU.

THERE'S SOME-THING...

WAIT, ICHIJO.

...BUT I NEVER MANAGED TO GET IT OUT...

I ALMOST TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES...

THERE'S ... THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU FOR A LONG TIME.

ACTUALLY, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME.

BUT ...

IT WAS THE SECOND TIME FOR ME...

I'VE KNOWN EVER SINCE WE WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH.

I FELL IN LOVE.

I'VE LOVED YOU...

...FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

ICHIJO ...

I LOVE YOU.

I'M SORRY ...

...DID SHE JUST SAY?

WHAT...?

AM I HEARING THINGS?

...MY TIMING IS SO TERRIBLE.

SO...

SINCE JUNIOR HIGH?

DID SHE REALLY JUST SAY THAT?

ONODERA... LOVES ME?

I'M SO SORRY!! ARE YOU OKAY?

AAAAAGH!!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? I'LL PAY FOR THE DRY CLEANING ...

I'M REALLY SORRY!!

SOB

NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

FOR REAL?!

I GOT INTO BONYARI HIGH SCHOOL BY THE WAIT LIST!

WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AGAIN!

HI, ICHIJO!

YEAH! COOL!

I THINK...

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY KIRISAKI...

...FELL FOR YOU.

HERE!

OH NO!

WHAT IF IT GETS INFECTED?

I'D LIKE IT...

IF YOU WERE THE ONE...

ALL THIS TIME...

I'VE...

THANK YOU.

THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.

IT REALLY DOES!!

...WHO HAD A CRUSH ON YOU IN JUNIOR HIGH, ICHIJO...

I KNOW A GIRL...

ICHIJO?

...YOU AND I ENDED UP GETTING MARRIED?

WHAT IF... JUST WHAT IF...

BUT IT'S A LITTLE BIT SPECIAL.

IT'S PLATONIC CHOCO-LATE...

WE SAID WE WANTED TO SEE IT TOGETHER, NO MATTER WHAT!

WELL...

WE PROMISED EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

ALL ALONG...

ALL ALONG...

ALL ALONG...

ALL THIS TIME... I WAS IN LOVE WITH HER... AND SHE LOVED ME TOO?

SHE'S LOVED ME ALL THIS TIME?

SO...

SNIFFLE...

SNIFF...

...

...I WOULDN'T CRY...

I PROM-ISED MYSELF ...

...ARE YOU CRYING, ICHIJO?

SO WHY...

BUT I...

I DON'T KNOW.

# Chapter 225:

## Con-fession

I LOVE YOU TOO...

...ONODERA.

# Chapter 226: Parting

I LOVED YOU FOR A LONG TIME.

SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.

FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

AND IT MEANS A LOT. REALLY.

I UNDER-STAND.

YES. THANK YOU.

...

YES...

BUT...

YOUR FEELINGS HAVE CHANGED, RIGHT?

...

YES...

...IN YOUR HEART NOW, ISN'T THERE?

THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE...

...

RIGHT.

...

CHING

TAKE THIS.

HERE.

...

BUT...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE THIS ANYMORE.

I REMEMBER WHO YOUR PROMISE GIRL WAS.

I...I REMEMBER NOW.

SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU.

GO ON.

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT'S INSIDE THE LOCKET.

IT'S YOUR CALL WHAT YOU DO NOW, ICHIJO.

OKAY. I'LL GO NOW.

YEAH.

THANK YOU...

...ONODERA.

TMP

...!?

WE FINALLY FOUND YOU!

KOSAKIIII!

OH! THERE YOU ARE!

WHERE'S ICHIJO? DID YOU FIND CHITOGE?

WAIT... YOU'RE ALONE?

...

Kosaki...

ICHIJO WENT...

...TO FIND CHITOGE.

...?

KOSAKI ...?

KOSAKI ...

...

I THOUGHT I'D CRY AND CRY.

IT'S STRANGE ...

I'M CONFUSED ...

...BY MY OWN FEELINGS...

I THOUGHT I'D BE SADDER...

RURI...

TELL ME...

HOW DOES MY FACE LOOK?

YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.

YOU IDIOT.

YES...

YOU'RE SUCH A MORON...

SHUP

YOU DUMMY...

FOR PETE'S SAKE!

I'M SORRY...

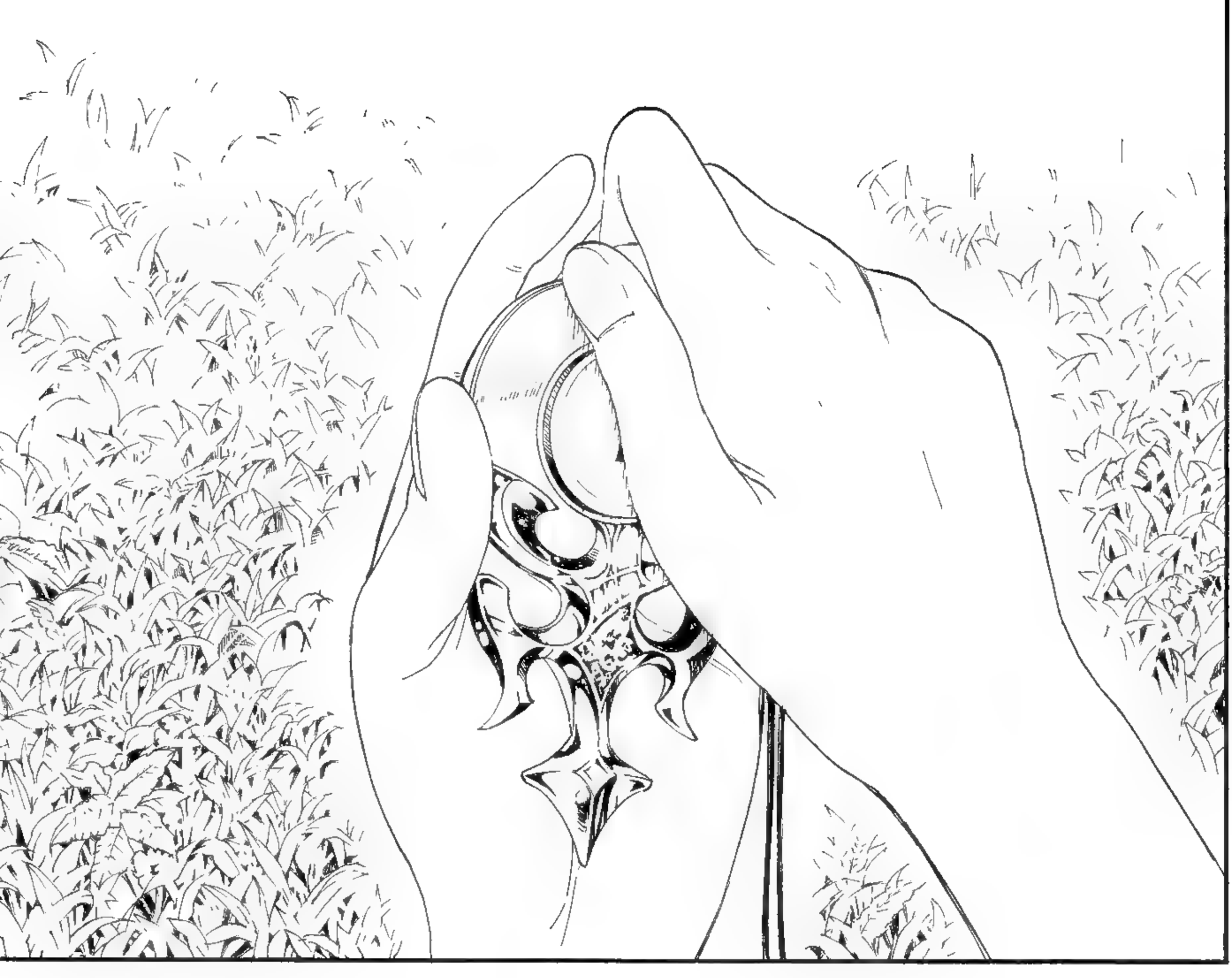
SHE

...WHAT YOU DO NOW, ICHIJO.

IT'S YOUR CALL...

KLINK

KCHAK



Raku

Osaki

...AND...

TWO RINGS...

...A LETTER ...?

ZI

NG...

OH...

...MY...

ONODERA IS...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

...THE THING I DECIDED TO LET GO OF...

AND WHAT'S THIS?

RINGS... JUST LIKE IN THE PICTURE BOOK...

AND...

THIS IS...

...THE ANSWER I WAS SEEKING FOR SO LONG.

"DEAR GROWN-UP KOSAKI...

"HOW ARE YOU? I'M PROBABLY FINE.

HA HA!

Dear Grown-up Kosaki,

WHAT DID I WRITE?

"DEAR GROWN-UP KOSAKI"...

AH... THEY'RE LETTERS TO OUR OLDER SELVES, WHEN WE MEET AGAIN.

HA HA! I GOTTA SAY, I WROTE SOME CUTE STUFF AS A KID...

"WHEN WE GET MARRIED, I WANT TO EAT YOUR COOKING EVERY DAY."

"AND I'LL BUY YOU A REAL RING TOO.

"WHEN WE GROW UP AND GET MARRIED, LET'S HAVE ALL THE ANIMALS WE LOVE AS PETS.

DEAR GROWN-UP RAKU ...

I BET YOU'RE TALL, NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP.

LET'S SEE...

WHAT DID ONODERA WRITE?

Kosaki,
I'm pro[illegible] we grow up
get married, let's have
the animals we love as pets.
And I'll buy your a real ring
too. When we get married,
I want to eat your cooking
every day.

Dear Grown-up Ra[illegible]
I bet you're tall, now
that you're all grown up.
I can't wait to grow up
and see you again and
talk with you again.

A LOT OF TIME MUST HAVE GONE BY.

BUT I'M SURE I'LL STILL LOVE YOU.

...

I CAN'T WAIT TO GROW UP AND SEE YOU AGAIN AND TALK WITH YOU AGAIN.

I BET THAT WILL HAPPEN.

Dear Grown-up Raku
I bet you're tall, now
that you're all grown up
I can't wait to grow up
and see you again and
talk with you again.

Do you still love me?

NGH
...

NO
REGRETS.

I
PROMISED
MYSELF
NOT TO
HAVE
REGRETS.

NOT THE
FACT THAT
WE MISSED
THE RIGHT
TIMING.

NOT THE
FACT THAT
I LOVED
HER ALL
THESE
YEARS.

ALL THIS TIME...

I WAS HAPPY BEING AROUND HER.

LAUGHING, TALKING WITH ONODERA...

SPENDING TIME WITH ONODERA WAS SO GREAT I COULD BARELY HANDLE IT.

I FELT LIKE I'D BE HAPPY FOREVER IF I COULD JUST STAY WITH HER.

I STILL ...

...FEEL THAT WAY.

BUT...

...THAT DAY...

I REALIZED SOMETHING.

Game

WE FIGHT ALL THE TIME AND SHE ALWAYS CLOBBERS ME.

SHE'S LOUD-MOUTHED AND SELF-CENTERED ... AND TOTALLY UNPRE-DICTABLE.

AND I CAN'T SAY I ALWAYS ENJOY HER COMPANY.

THAT DAY...

I REALIZED THAT I HAVE FEELINGS FOR CHITOGE.

BUT...

I WANT TO LAUGH WITH HER FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

SO...

BUT WITH HER, IT'S POSSIBLE.

A WORLD I COULD NEVER REACH ALONE.

I FEEL LIKE, WITH CHITOGE... I CAN REACH A WORLD I NEVER DREAMED OF.

IT'S GOING TO BE SO PATHETIC...

IF SHE TOTALLY REJECTS ME...

Well, I just have to trust the universe...

NOW...

TMP

ANYWAY, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

# Chapter 227:

# False Love

THERE YOU ARE.

HEY.

...

YES...

BUT NOW ...

I CAN'T REALLY THINK OF WHAT TO ASK.

MY PLAN WAS TO FIND YOU...

...AND GET SOME ANSWERS.

HEY...

RAKU ?

ME TOO...

YES.

...LOVE YOU.

I...

I REALIZED IT AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL ...

...BACK IN OUR FIRST YEAR.

I'VE LOVED YOU FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

I OVER-HEARD THE OTHER DAY.

YOU AND MAIKO WERE TALKING.

BUT...

YOU LIKE KOSAKI, RIGHT?

BUT IT BROUGHT ME TO THIS PLACE...

AND NOW I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO.

I'M REALLY SORRY FOR MAKING EVERYONE WORRY.

THAT'S WHY I RAN AWAY.

SO...

I CAN FINALLY LET GO.

STILL, I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU...

...THAT I LOVE YOU.

IT WAS KOSAKI.

I'M NOT...

...YOUR PROMISE GIRL.

I'M REALLY SORRY.

HON-ESTLY ...

I'VE BEEN SELFISH FROM BEGINNING TO END. I'M SORRY.

JUST NOW...

KOSAKI CONFESSED HER FEELINGS TO ME.

I SEE...

...

?!

AND...

I TURNED HER DOWN AND CAME HERE.

ALL OF IT.

I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO TOO.

REALLY. YEARS AND YEARS.

IT'S TRUE ...

I LOVED KOSAKI FOR AGES.

BUT...

THEN I MET SOMEONE ELSE.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT! I'M IN A HURRY!

WAA!

DON'T BE SHY! I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

MY NAME'S CHITOGE KIRISAKI. I JUST MOVED HERE FROM THE U.S.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

YOU!!

WHO'RE YOU CALLING GORILLA GIRL?!

CAN'T YOU LET IT GO?

I SAID I WAS SORRY.

YOU... GORILLA GIRL!!

OH YEAH, YOU SEEM REALLY SORRY!!

AND CLOBBERING ME IN FRONT OF OUR CLASS-MATES...

ALWAYS TALKIN' TRASH...

A REAL TROUBLEMAKER.

HONESTLY, AT FIRST, I TOTALLY COULDN'T STAND HER...

SOMEHOW WE JUST NEVER GOT ALONG.

WE BUTTED HEADS WHENEVER WE SAW EACH OTHER.

PLUS WE FOUGHT ALL THE TIME!

I CAME TO SEE THAT.

SHE WAS JUST AWKWARD. BUT UNDERNEATH THAT, SHE HAD THE BEST HEART OF ANYONE.

SHE SEEMED MEAN, BUT SHE WAS REALLY KIND-HEARTED.

...THE MORE I REALIZED THAT SHE WAS ACTUALLY REALLY SWEET.

BUT...

THE MORE I GOT TO KNOW HER...

I LOVED HER.

I REALIZED ...

AND EVENTUALLY ...

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL SOMEONE POINTED IT OUT TO ME.

...BUT I WAS IN LOVE WITH BOTH OF YOU.

YOU MIGHT THINK I'M A TOTAL JERK...

BUT...

I STILL LOVED ONODERA.

...I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

...BECAUSE I COULDN'T MAKE UP MY MIND.

I'M REALLY SORRY.

...I WOUND UP HURTING YOU...

AND AS A RESULT...

WHY...

...ME?

IT'S JUST... HOW I FEEL.

HM...

I DON'T KNOW.

ALL THIS TIME...

...GOOD ENOUGH, YOU STUPID BEAN SPROUT!

THAT'S NOT...

YES.

EVER SINCE JUNIOR HIGH!

WITH KOSAKI!

YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH HER!

SO WHY...

AND YOU STILL LOVED EACH OTHER!

YOU FOUND EACH OTHER AGAIN!!

AND WHAT ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

...WHEN I'M WITH YOU.

...I'M HAPPY...

I THINK...

RIGHT.

EVEN WHEN YOU CRY...

WHEN YOU GET ANGRY, AND SAD...

I'M HAPPY FIGHTING WITH YOU.

I'M HAPPY LISTENING TO YOUR TRASH TALK.

I GUESS...

...THAT'S HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS...

SNIFF

...IS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!!

THE GIRL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

DON'T YOU SEE?

I KNOW.

YES...

SHE TALKS TRASH AND MAKES TROUBLE...

AND SHE GETS VIOLENT WHEN SHE'S ANGRY...

AS SOON AS SHE GETS UPSET SHE GOES OFF AND SULKS...

YEAH.

SHE'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!

SHE MAKES OTHER PEOPLE WORRY... CAUSES A BIG STIR...

WHEN SHE'S AFRAID OF GETTING HURT, SHE RUNS AWAY...!

YEP.

HA HA!

AND SHE EATS...

...LIKE A PIG...

SHE CAN'T KEEP HER ROOM TIDY.

SHE CAN'T EVEN DO LAUNDRY.

...YOUR PROMISE GIRL.

AND SHE'S NOT...

SHE'S A FAKE.

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

I WANT YOU.

YES.

...

YES ...

CHI-TOGE...

I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU.

WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!

I LOVE YOU!! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!

RAKU!!

NISEKOI
False Love

# Chapter 228: Departure

WHAT NEXT?

TO BONYARI HIGH?

YOU'LL COME BACK, WON'T YOU?

I DON'T THINK I WILL.

WELL, ACTU-ALLY...

...AND A FAMOUS BUSINESSWOMAN, AN ASSOCIATE OF MY MOTHER'S, EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ME.

SHE SAYS I HAVE POTENTIAL.

WHEN I WAS WORKING FOR MY MOM, I DIDN'T INTEND TO GO BACK. SO I WAS PUTTING OUT FEELERS...

I MENTIONED FINDING MY OWN PATH, RIGHT?

I WANT TO REALIZE MY POTENTIAL ...

...SO THAT I CAN HOLD MY HEAD HIGHER WHEN WE MEET AGAIN.

MAYBE THIS IS MY OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THAT.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CONFUSED AND UNFOCUSED WHEN IT CAME TO FIGURING OUT MY FUTURE...

BUT IF I WANT THE JOB, I HAVE TO GO FOR IT NOW.

AND...I THINK I SHOULD.

IS THAT... OKAY?

MAYBE HALF A YEAR OR A YEAR... OR EVEN LONGER...

APPAR-ENTLY IT INVOLVES TRAVELING ALL OVER THE WORLD.

IF I DO THIS, I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE.

THE THING IS...

IT'S JUST... I'VE REALLY THOUGHT THIS OVER, AND...

...AND YOU KNOW, I'D REALLY LOVE TO STAY WITH YOU...

OF COURSE, I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU SAID...

GO! I'LL BE HERE!

SMAK

DON'T BE SILLY, YOU DUMMY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR DREAM IS...

...BUT THIS MEANS A LOT TO YOU, RIGHT?

AND IT'S A RARE CHANCE, RIGHT?

I'LL WAIT AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

THEN THE CHOICE IS OBVIOUS.

GO FOR IT!

YEAH!

YEAH
...
...
YEAH?
EVERYONE'S WAITING...
WE SHOULD HEAD BACK SOON.
HEY!
THERE THEY ARE!

KOSAKI
...

CHI-
TOGE...

I...

KOSAKI...
UM...

HUG

...

SKWEEZ!

A LONG, LONG DAY DREW TO A CLOSE.

AND THUS...

THE LOVE IN VARIOUS HEARTS...

MEMO-RIES...

PROM-ISES...

...ALL BLENDED TOGETHER.

IT WAS A LONG DAY.

CHITOGE WENT STRAIGHT BACK TO HANA'S COMPANY.

THEY WERE BOTH ALREADY WAY TOO SMART FOR HIGH SCHOOL ANYWAY.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, TSUGUMI DECIDED TO GO WITH HER.

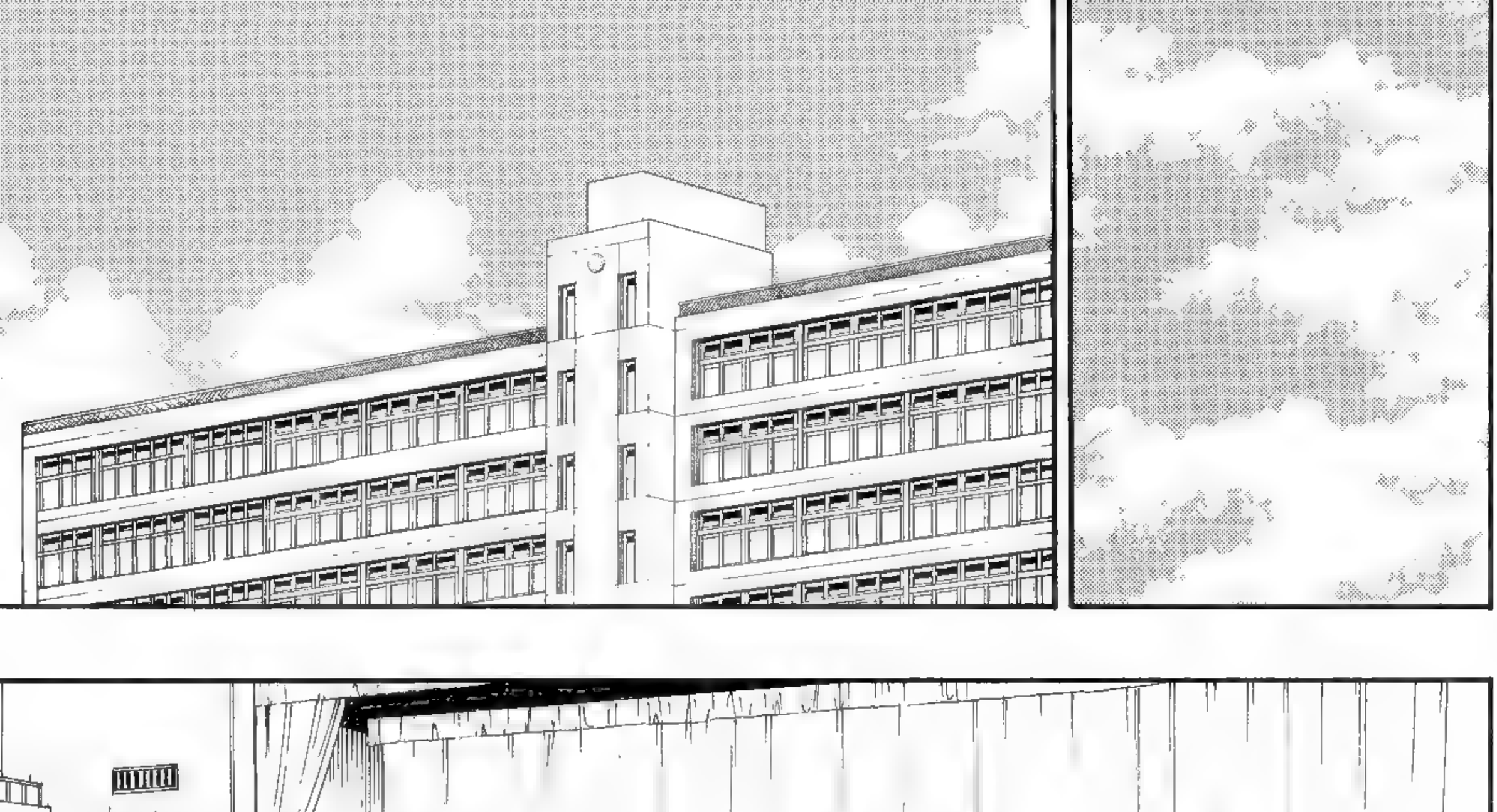
BOTH DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL...

WHERE THEY WERE GOING, ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS WEREN'T A BIG DEAL.

TIME PASSED ...

TACHIBANA WENT BACK TO FINISH TREATING HER CONDITION.

BASICALLY, LIFE WENT BACK TO NORMAL.



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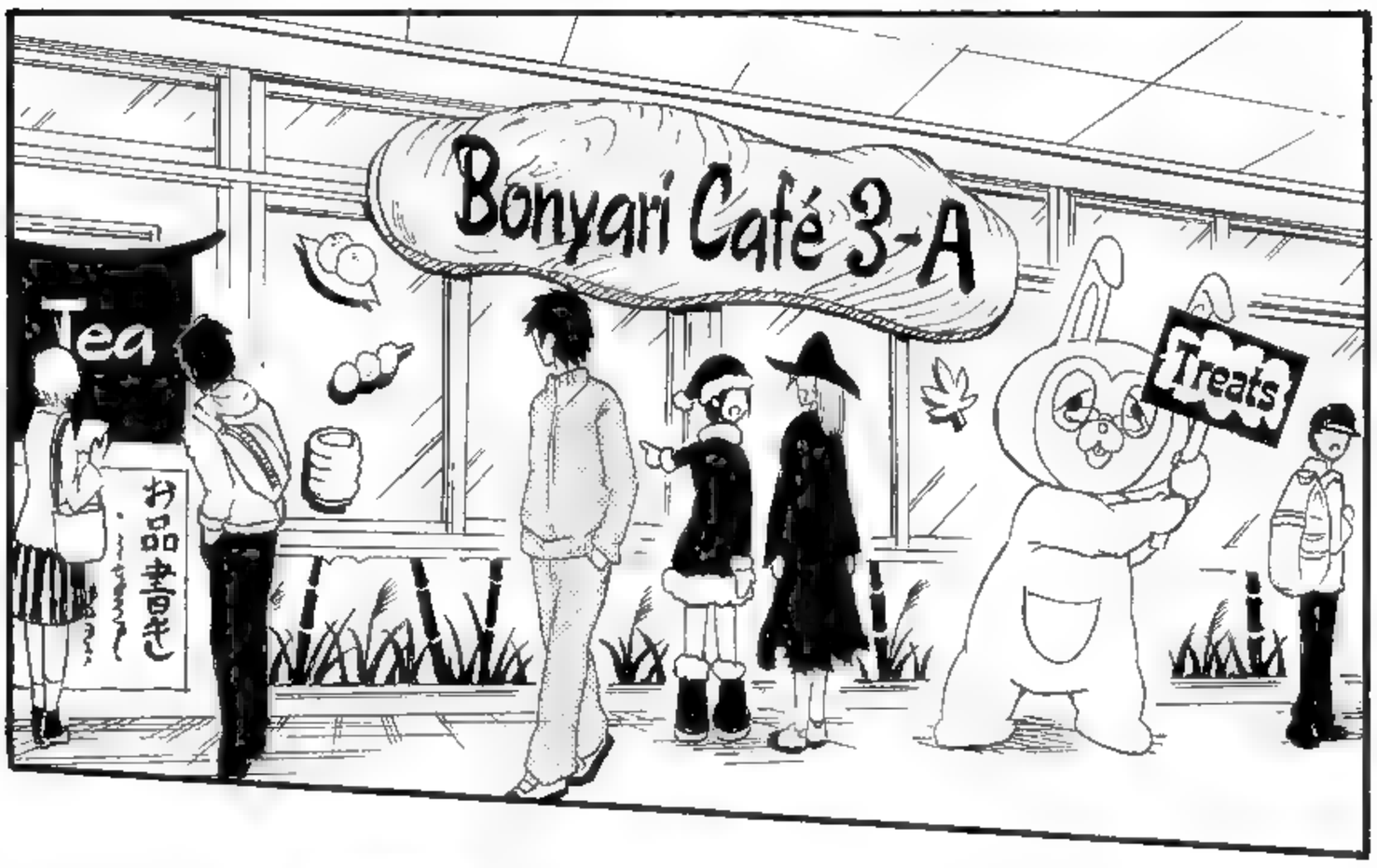
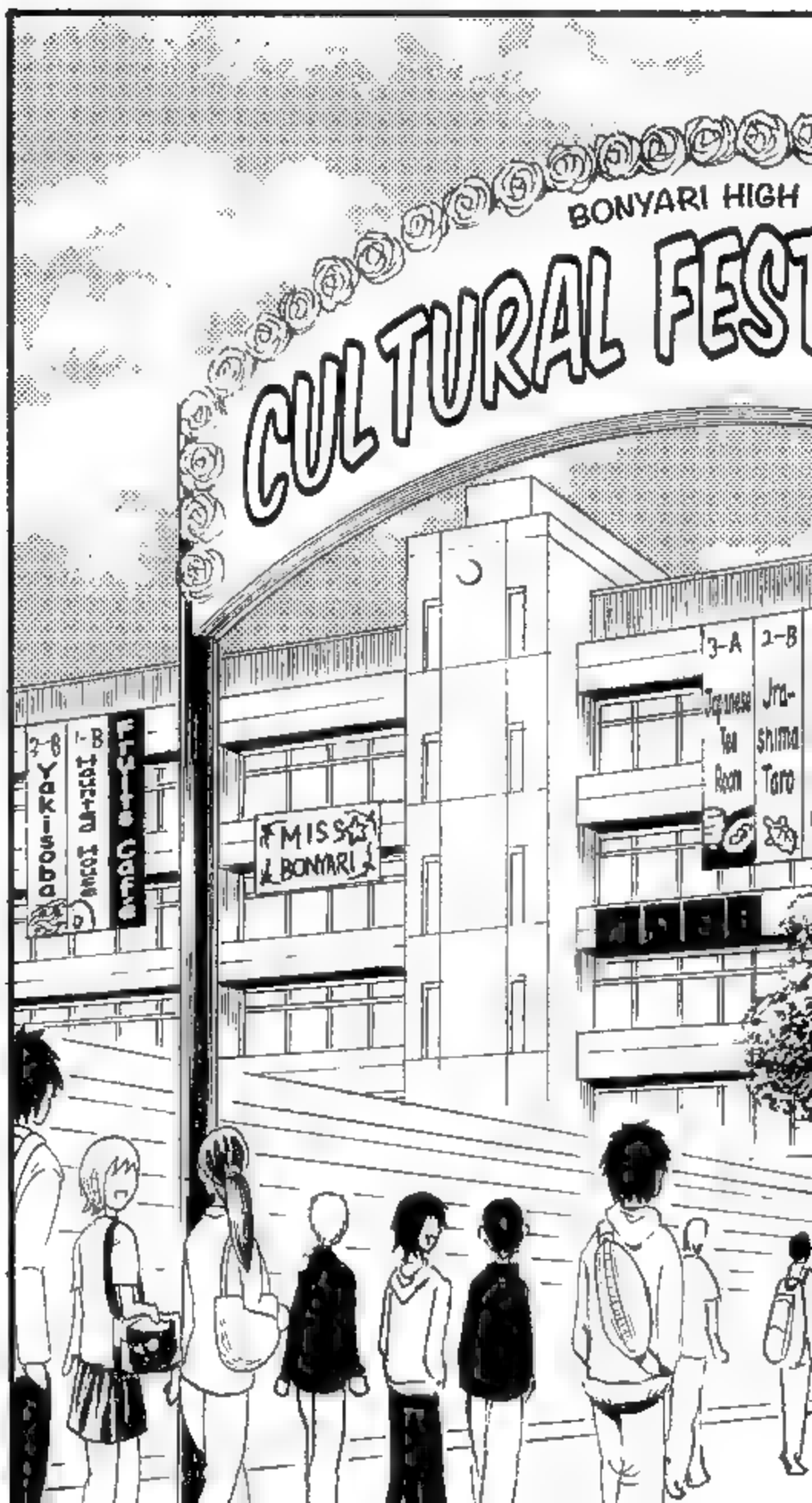
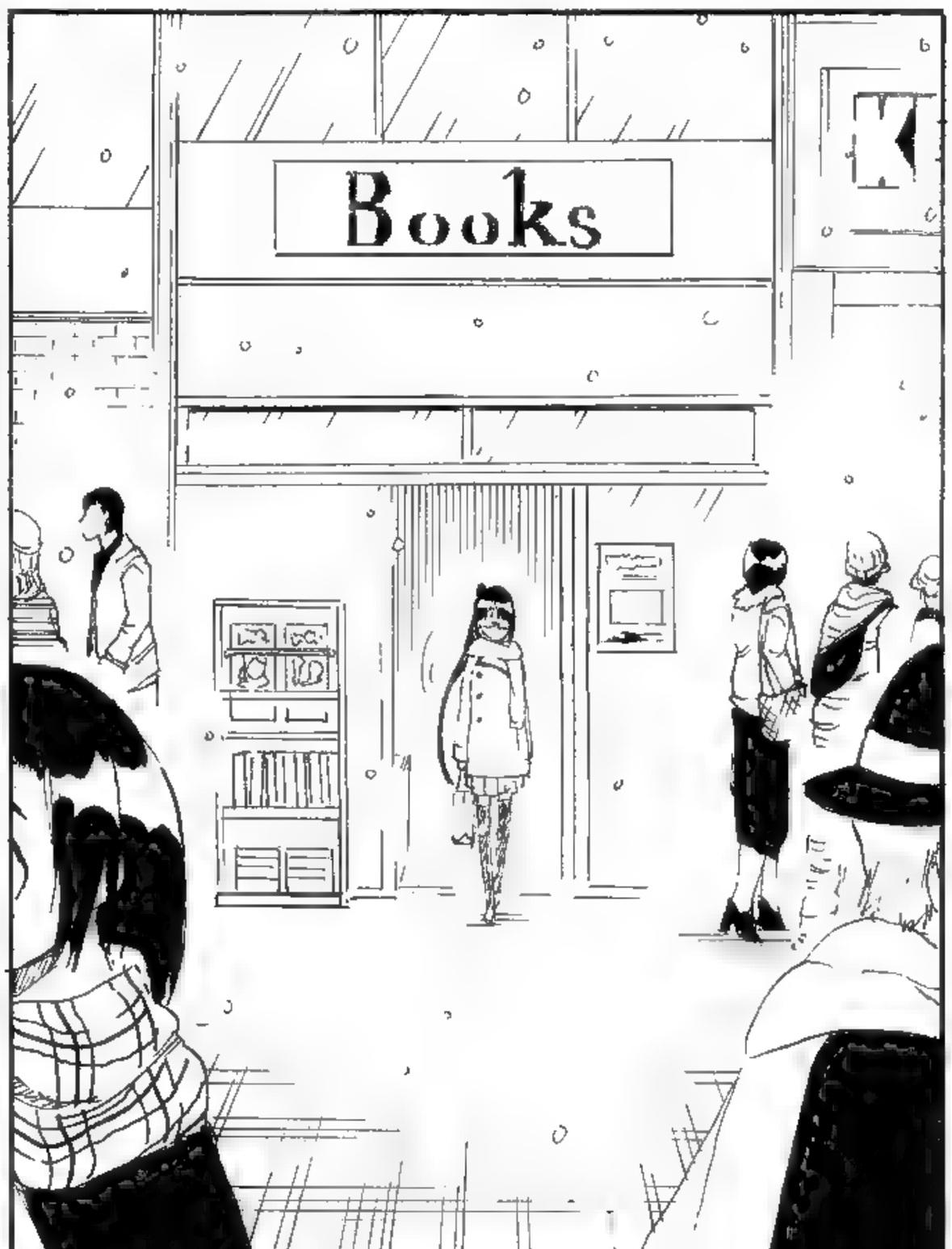

Bonyari Café 3-A
Tea
お品書き
Treats


BONYARI HIGH
CULTURAL FEST
3-A
2-B
Japanese Tea Room
Jinshima Taro
MISS☆BONYARI

Xmas
SALE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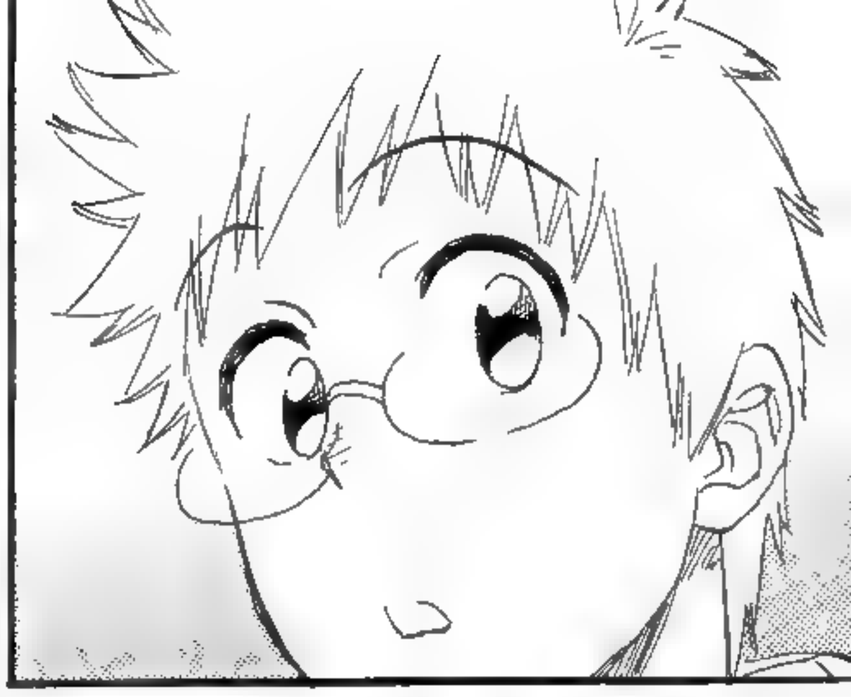
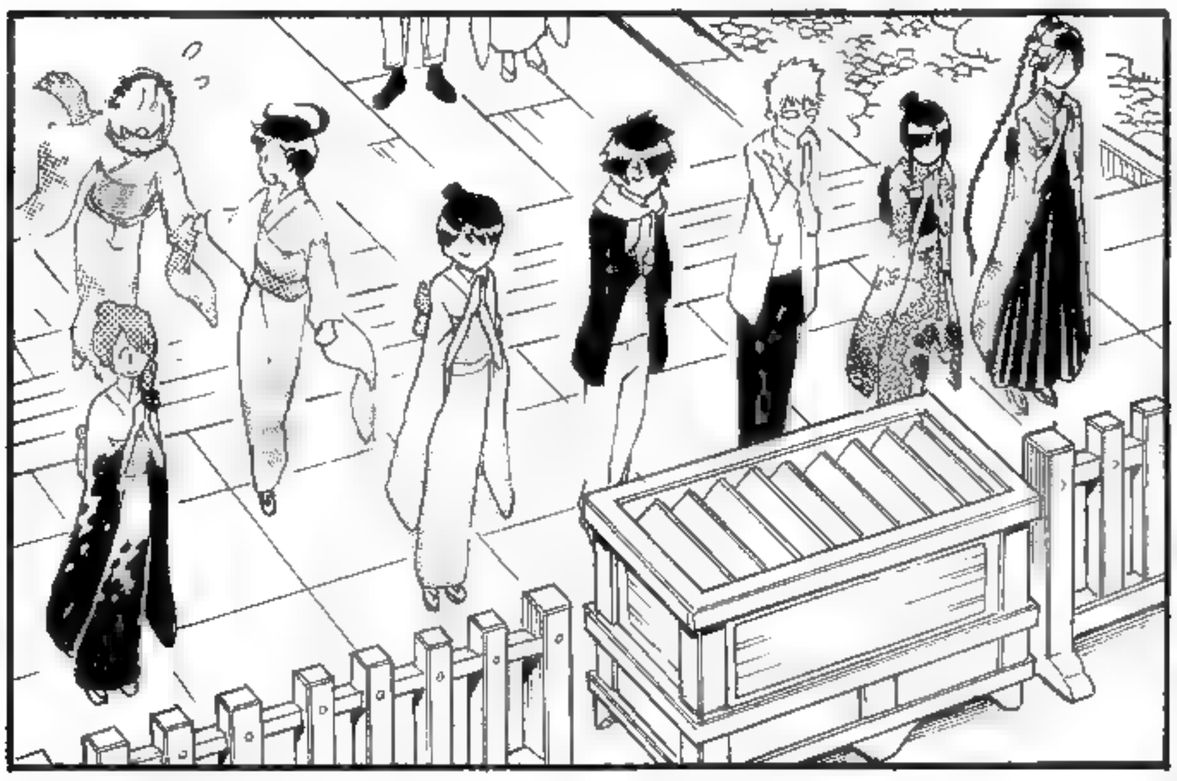
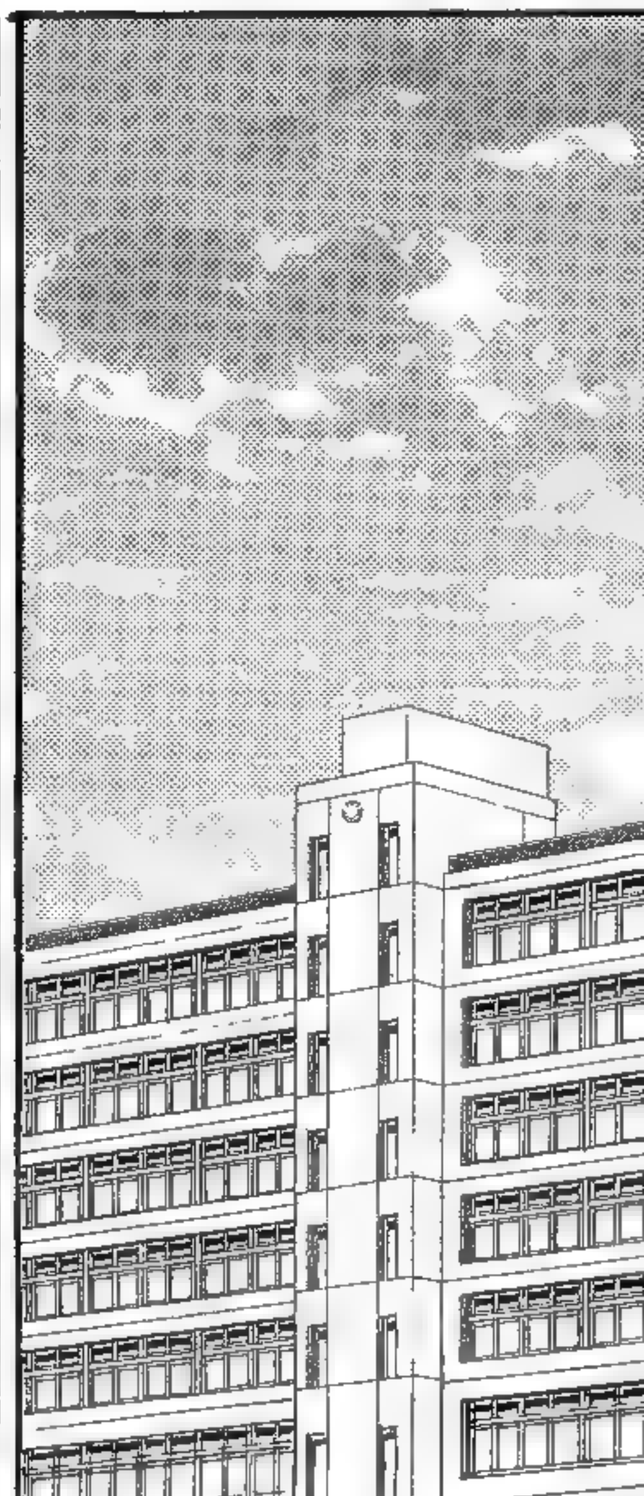
Books









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GRADUATION

SEVERAL YEARS LATER...

Final Story: Promise

MY NAME IS RAKU ICHIJO.

I'M JUST YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL, WORKADAY CIVIL SERVANT.

I BEGAN WORKING AT BONYARI CITY HALL THIS YEAR.

CHOP

CHOPPA

FWIP

OH!

GOOD MORNING, YOUNG MASTER!!

HEY!!

GRUB'S READY, YOU LOWLIFES!

YES...

EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...

GOOD.

EXCUSE ME!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE CALLING YOUNG MASTER?

OOPS! SORRY!

GOTTA FIX THAT HABIT!!

YES.

...OF MY FAMILY'S YAKUZA CLAN.

I'VE ASSUMED LEADER-SHIP...

I MEAN, BOSS!

I GUESS I CAME TO SEE MY FAMILY DIFFERENTLY OVER THE YEARS.

It's getting cold!

YEAH! RIGHT AWAY, BOSS!!

GO ON...

CHOW DOWN!

A LOT OF THINGS LED UP TO THIS. MOST OF ALL...

IN FACT, THEY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN KEEPING OTHER TROUBLEMAKERS OUT OF TOWN.

BLOCK BLOCK

I SAW THAT OUR GUYS DIDN'T REALLY MAKE SO MUCH TROUBLE.

IT ALL JUST FELL INTO PLACE.

AND WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED A PUBLIC-SAFETY POST AT CITY HALL...

...BUT I NOW WORK TO KEEP THE PEACE IN THIS TOWN THROUGH BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNDERGROUND CHANNELS.

OF COURSE, I HAVE TO KEEP IT UNDER WRAPS...

I'VE GOTTA LOOK AFTER MY OWN.

AND WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, THESE GUYS ARE MY FAMILY.

I FIND MY WORK REWARD-ING.

YOU MEAN "BOSS," YOU NUMB-SKULL!!

DANG, YOUNG MASTER!! YOU'RE GOOD!

YUM!!

HEY!

YOU'RE STARTING TO LOOK MORE COMFORTABLE NOW!

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

I'M TAKING A TRIP WITH YOUR MOTHER.

A SECOND HONEYMOON.

HEY, DAD. YOU'RE REALLY OWNING THAT LOOK TOO.

HA HA HA! YOU BET I AM!

NOW THAT YOU'VE TAKEN OVER, I CAN KICK BACK AND ENJOY LIFE!

...AND SPENT EVERY DAY DOING WHATEVER HE FELT LIKE.

MY DAD BASICALLY WENT INTO RETIRE-MENT...

THANKS FOR HANDLING EVERY-THING!

DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR THE BIG DAY.

MASTER CLAUDE, A LETTER FOR YOU!

TOK TOK

NOW...

WHEN I TOOK OVER HERE, CHITOGE'S DAD STEPPED DOWN TOO.

THE BEEHIVE WAS MUCH THE SAME.

...BUT IN THE END THEY FOUND A NEW LOCATION IN JAPAN.

THERE WAS TALK OF THE GANG MOVING BACK TO THE STATES...

SHOOP

RIGHT HERE IN BONYARI TOWN, ACTUALLY.

OLD "FOUR-EYES"...

...CLAUDE IS IN CHARGE.

THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION BEFITTING OUR ILLUSTRIOUS ORGANIZATION!

HEY!! ORDER 4,000 BOTTLES OF WINE!

YES, SIR!!

OF COURSE, HE STILL GIVES ME AN EARFUL EVERY SO OFTEN.

...AND I'D SAY WE HAVE A MUCH BETTER CONNEC-TION.

WE SEE EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN THESE DAYS...

HMPH!

WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID, MAN? DON'TCHA REMEMBER WHAT DAY IT IS?

YOU GOING SOMEWHERE TOO, BOSS?

NOW...

I'D BETTER GET CHANGED TOO...

AS FOR THE OTHERS ...

I'LL BE BACK SOON!

AWW! THANKS FOR SEEING ME OFF, GUYS!

RROWF

MEH

TAKE GOOD CARE OF MARGARITA AND THE REST!

OH YEAH!! HOW COULD I FORGET?!

HEY, RAKU! I JUST OPENED IT!

GOT IT RIGHT HERE!

BREEP

HEY, SHU... I SENT YOU AN INVITATION. DID YOU GET IT?

BRRRNG

I'VE GOT A GREAT TEAM SUPPORTING IT. IT'S GONNA BE A REAL BLAST, BRO!

YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THE AFTER-PARTY!

TRUST ME, MAN!

JUST DON'T GO OVER-BOARD, OKAY?

I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!

ESPE-CIALLY SINCE I'M THE PLANNER AND ALL!

DOOT

IT'S NOT EASY TO GET BY AS A TEACHER AND A TRANSLATOR.

TAKATAKATAKATAKA

YOU'D BETTER START SAVING, THEN.

TAKATAKA

HEY, RURI! MAYBE YOU AND ME SHOULD GET HITCHED TOO!

WOW! SO, THEY'RE ACTUALLY TYING THE KNOT!

HEY, BY THE WAY...

SPEAKING OF TEACHERS ...

SURE!! LEAVE IT TO ME!!

I'M HONORED THAT YOU THOUGHT TO INVITE ME.

OF COURSE I'LL BE THERE!

WHY HELLO, MAIKO!

YES! I DID GET THE INVITATION.

WOW... PHEW! MARRIAGE... THAT'S HEAVY!

BESIDES, I WANT YOU TO MEET THE CHILDREN.

YES! WE CAN'T WAIT!

NO, NOT AT ALL!

I DID A BIT AT FIRST...

WHAT... DO YOU STILL FEEL WEIRD...

...THAT ICHIJO DIDN'T PICK MY SISTER?

WA'A'A!

WHEN'S MY PRINCE CHARMING GOING TO SHOW UP?!

BUT WHAT ABOUT US?!

AND THEY ALL SEEM SO HAPPY NOW.

BUT I KNOW IT WAS COMPLI-CATED.

YEAH...

SHE SAYS ALL THE GUYS IN HER LABS AND CLASSES ARE SUPER DULL.

I NEVER EXPECTED PAULA TO GO TO GRAD SCHOOL AND BECOME A RESEARCHER IN A LAB.

YEAH...THAT WAS A SURPRISE.

SINCE I TOOK OVER THE SHOP, I'M WAY TOO BUSY TO EVER MEET ANYONE.

WONDER IF I'LL EVER GET MARRIED ...

HEH HEH... YOU SOUND JUST LIKE PAULA!

What about the desserts, Fu?

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?! THIS IS MOSTLY ABOUT ME!!

LEMME SEE...

"JAPANESE CONFECTIONS LOVINGLY CRAFTED BY A CLASSICAL BEAUTY"...

HEY, YOU MIGHT MEET SOMEONE THIS WAY!

HEY, HARU! WANT TO READ OVER THE ARTICLE I WROTE ABOUT THE SHOP?

IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY, YOU KNOW!

HUH?

HELLO, RAKU?

YES, I GOT IT!

BESIDES, IF NOBODY SNATCHES YOU UP, HARU, I'LL MARRY YOU.

HMPH... GEE, THANKS.

おのでら

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EVERYONE!

YEAH, I'M FEELING WELL, THANKS!

PAT

MY WORKLOAD AS DON ISN'T THAT HEAVY.

OF COURSE I'LL BE THERE!

CALLING FOR THE YOUNG MISTRESS? SHE SHOULD BE IN JAPAN BY NOW.

OH, IT'S YOU, RAKU ICHIJO!

HELLO?

HONESTLY...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D WIND UP WORKING FOR THE MISTRESS AS A MODEL!

THE MISTRESS REQUESTED IT, SO I FELT I REALLY HAD TO ATTEND.

I'D BE THERE NOW, BUT I GOT A SUDDEN CALL TO DO AN EVENT.

SEND MY LOVE TO THE MIS-TRESS!

OOPS... THAT'S MY CALL.

HEY... ARE YOU MOCKING ME?!

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK... BOSS OF THE SHUEIGUMI!

WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE LIFE WILL TAKE YOU...

PUT IT THERE, PLEASE.

SIX NEW CANDI-DATES.

A NEW LIST OF POTENTIAL SUITORS FROM THE MARRIAGE BROKER.

MIS-TRESS ...

WELL, WELL!

I SEE RAKU DEAREST IS FINALLY TAKING THE PLUNGE!

HE HAD ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT CONFUSED WITH INTELLECT. YUCK.

THAT GUY YESTER-DAY WAS JUST AWFUL!

WELL, SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE THAT.

THAT'S GOOD NEWS!

?

THIS CAME, TOO.

WHY, DON'T BE SILLY!

YOU'VE BEEN GOING NONSTOP THESE PAST FEW DAYS.

ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T OVER-DOING IT, MISTRESS?

AND I'M IN A GOOD MOOD, SO PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ONE OF THE SUITORS TO COME BY THIS EVENING.

RIGHT AWAY, MISTRESS.

SEND MY RSVP, PLEASE.

OF COURSE I'LL ATTEND.

I'll have to come up with a clever way of giving them a bit of a hard time!

IT'S A TALL ORDER. THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!

I HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE MORE WONDERFUL THAN RAKU DEAREST.

HELLO?

SURE, NO PROBLEM. I'M ON A BREAK.

YES, I GOT THE INVITATION! OF COURSE I'LL BE THERE!

FROM CHIBA PREFECTURE... HEY, YOKO, HOW DO YOU READ THIS CHARACTER?

NOW... WHO'S ON THE DOCKET TONIGHT?

LET ME SEE...

I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION!

HM?

DON'T BE SILLY! I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED TO TAKE THIS ON!

IT'S LOOKING GOOD.

YES... I WAS JUST WORKING ON A NEW DESIGN.

I THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT.

I CAN'T WAIT!

REALLY? WOW, THAT'S SO GREAT!

HUH?

HEE HEE, JUST KIDDING!

NOW ENOUGH OF THAT, OR I'LL GET ANGRY!

ALMOST DONE...!

GOOD...

YES.

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BIG DAY, THEN!

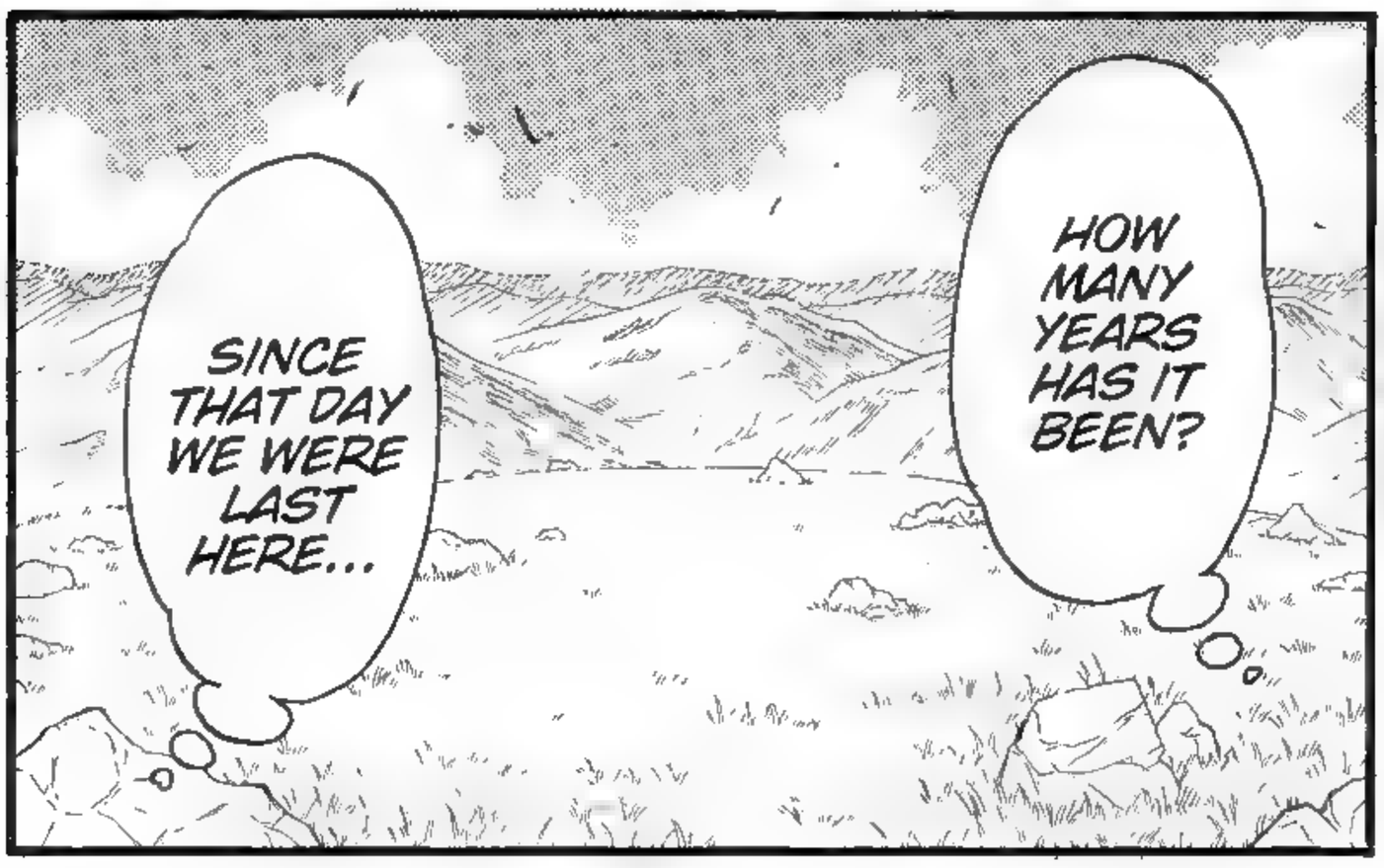
BYE!

BEEP

PHEW!

...

Happy Wedding
Roku♡Chitoge


SINCE THAT DAY WE WERE LAST HERE...
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?

TMP

BY A WHOLE FIVE MINUTES!
YOU'RE LATE!

LONG TIME NO SEE.

...

YES.

HOW MANY MONTHS SINCE WE LAST MET?

MORE THAN HALF A YEAR, I THINK.

YOU'RE SO BUSY THESE DAYS.

OH, PLEASE!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS ALL CAUGHT UP IN YOUR QUALIFICATION EXAM AND NEW JOBS AND WHATNOT!

YEAH... I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

HONESTLY, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE BECOME A WORLD-FAMOUS FASHION DESIGNER.

WHAT, IS THAT SO WEIRD?

NOT WEIRD, EXACTLY...

I DO REMEMBER YOU DRESSING TSUGUMI UP BACK IN THE DAY...

YEP.

SHFF

DID YOU BRING IT?

SO, LET'S GET START-ED.

YOU'RE AS BUSY AS YOUR MOTHER THESE DAYS, HUH?

WE'LL LIVE TOGETHER AFTER THE WEDDING. JUST BE PATIENT A BIT LONGER.

HOW MUCH TIME CAN YOU SPARE?

NOT MUCH. GOTTA BE BACK IN TWO DAYS.

KA-

SHING

ZAWSZE IN LOVE...

THE PENDANT I KEPT ALL THOSE YEARS...

WE BURIED IT HERE THAT DAY.

THE THREE OF US DECIDED TOGETH-ER.

ONCE AGAIN...

ALL RIGHT.

I'D LOVE TO.

YES.

WILL YOU...

...MARRY ME...

CHITOGE?

YES...

A LOT HAPPENED...

A LOT HAPPENED.

IT'S BEEN A LONG JOUR-NEY...

...TO THIS POINT.

RIGHT... KOFF KOFF...

ONE MOMENT PLEASE, DARLING.

C'MON, LET'S GO.

WE NEED TO SAY HELLO TO SOMEONE WHILE WE'RE HERE, REMEM-BER?

...

UM...

AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

DON'T BE SILLY!

Once we get hitched, there's no turning back!

ARE YOU SURE I'M THE ONE?

I CAN MAN UP.

YEAH, OKAY.

OH, PLEASE! STOP BEING SUCH A LITTLE GIRL AND MAN UP FOR ONCE!

SURE, I DO. BUT YOU KNOW, MAYBE THE MOOD NEEDS TO BE RIGHT OR SOMETHING ...

WHAT, YOU DON'T WANT TO?!

ARE WE REALLY GOING TO DO THIS?

!

YES!

SHp

ALL RIGHT!

CHITOGE!

I'M... NOT QUITE READY...

UM... ACTUALLY, WAIT A SEC.

YOU DORK.

OUCH!! WATCH THE TEETH!

HEY... IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?

HUH?! SHEESH! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!

IT'S OUR FIRST TIME ...!!

Volume 25--False Love/END

# BONUS COMIC

My name is Sasa Miyanagi.

I'm new at Bonyari High. I'm a freshman.

My mother went to Bonyari High too.

I wonder what kind of people I'll meet...

I'm so excited!

HISSS!

What the heck is this?

That's how I was feeling, anyway. But...

SLASHA SLASHA SLASHA

Yeeeow!

I think he's trying to help it... But it seems so terrified...

C'mere, kitty. Don't be scared.

HSS!

Is that person rescuing that cat? Or harassing it?

Here, kitty-kitty! Over here!

Hmm...

But he's got bleached-blond hair... He seems kinda sketchy...

What now? Should I try to help?

Hmmmmm

Gee, I'm envious.

No... But animals tend to like me.

It's the opposite for me.

PURR PURR

And it came down on its own!

Oh, wow! It really likes you!

Is it your cat?

Yeah... It's my first year!

That's the Bonyari High uniform, right?

No way! Me too!

My name's Haku Ichijo.

If we wind up in the same class, will you teach me how to make cats like me?

Since my family... I mean, my hair's blond. It's my natural color, but nobody believes me.

Oh. Usually people are afraid of me at first.

Did you just move here, Miyanagi?

Huh? Yeah.

I'm staying with my aunt who lives here.

Hey, you've got blue eyes too!

Wow, that's your natural color?

I'm Sasa Miyanagi.

Sure, I'd be glad to.

Never thought my first friend in town would be a guy...

I'm off to a good start!

Whew, I'm so glad! He's so nice!

I'm as local as they get.

Thanks for your help. I can show you around the area if you like.

Really? I'd love that!

TMP TMP TMP TMP

Yikes! Let's get outta here!

Huh? How come?

Why are you running?! We want to escort you to school!!

There you are! We were looking for you, Young Master!!

Gah!

Young Masterrr !!!

TMP TMP TMP

TMP TMP

I have no intention of inheriting his position !!

But you're his heir, Young Master!

Well, he's him, and I'm me!

Aw, c'mon. We always escorted your dad back in the day!

You'll ruin everything for me at my new school!

Ugh! Leave me alone, guys!

She was kinda cute...

And he helps at the shop here on the weekends.

His family's sort of, uh, well known.

Um, well ...

You know him, Auntie Haru?

Oh, yes. You must mean the Ichijo boy.

For real ?!

The End

# AFTERWORD

Wow... I can't believe *Nisekoi* is finally over! The romantic comedy genre was new to me, so I'm impressed that it lasted so long! And I'm super relieved right now that we were able to wrap it all up without any mishaps.

Thank you so much for reading this far! I'm truly grateful for everyone who has made *Nisekoi* possible: the editors from the early days until now, Kobayashi-san for the design of the original books, Ishiyama-san for the design of the tankobon editions, the teams who made the anime series and video game, and most of all, to all of you devoted readers!

The saga draws to a close here, but I'd like to think that the characters will live on, fumbling happily through future adventures. Perhaps we'll see them again one of these days. If that happens, I hope you'll greet them with warm smiles again.

Until we meet again!

Naoshi Komi

- Assistant Staff:

Hirokazu Yasuhara
Hiroki Kawai
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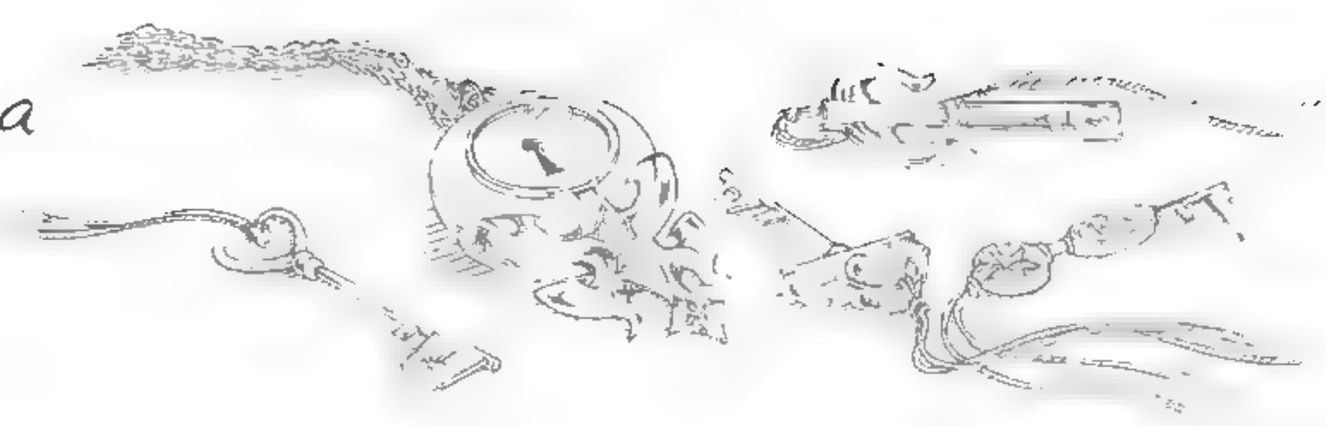
Tomohiro Hasegawa
Shogo Horiuchi



# NISEKOI

## False Love

The last volume of *Nisekoi*! The group's long journey down the road of love reaches its conclusion! Thank you for sticking with us to witness the fate of each of our friends. It's the finale!

Naoshi Komi

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His best-selling shonen manga series *Nisekoi* is available in North America from VIZ Media.

# NISEKOI:
## False Love
VOLUME 25
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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by SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo.
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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, January 2018

RATED
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FOR
TEEN
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NISEKOI: FALSE LOVE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.
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